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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

Milhim Denies Plans for Gaza Municipal Elections *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 2 Apr]* 1
'Arafat Meets PRC's Ambassador to Tunisia *[Algiers VOP]* 1
PLO Denies Algerian Harassment of Palestinians *[Tunis Radio]* 1
Islamic Front Issues Statement on Land Day *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 30 Mar]* 1
'Arafat Cables Japanese Friendship Society *[Algiers VOP]* 2
Abu-Sharif's Anti-Kuwait Remarks Criticized *[London AL-ZAHIRAH 22 Mar]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Party Discusses General Strike Call *[Algiers Radio]* 3
FIS Head on Attitude on Assembly Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 3
Parliament Speaker on APN Session, Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Ecology Party Applies for Legalization *[APS]* 4

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Confers With Arab League Official *[MENA]* 4
Arab League Representative Terms Meetings Positive *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Syrian Information Minister's Interview Cited *[MENA]* 5
Commentary on Arab Unity After Gulf Crisis *[Cairo TV]* 6
Report Warns of Youth Unemployment Increase *[MENA]* 7

Libya

Syrian Vice President Khaddam Arrives 2 Apr *[Damascus Radio]* 7
Views on Gulf Situation 'Unified' *[Tripoli International]* 7
Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Messages to African Leaders *[Tripoli Radio]* 8

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Returns From UK Visit 2 Apr *[WAKH]* 9

Kuwait

Ministry Statement on Issuing Return Permits *[Riyadh TV]* 9

Oman

Further Reportage on Somali Premier's Visit 9
Official Talks Held *[WAKH]* 9
Ghalib Accuses Kenya of Aiding Opponents *[AFP]* 9
Leaves Muscat 3 Apr *[WAKH]* 10

Qatar

General Schwarzkopf Arrives on Two-Day Visit *[WAKH]* 10

Received by Amir *[WAKH]* 10

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Jordanian King To Visit *[SPA]* 10
Syrian Foreign Minster Arrives in Jeddah 1 Apr *[SPA]* 10
King Receives Al-Asad Message *[SPA]* 11
Further Reportage on Iranian Delegation's Visit 11
Delegation Opens Embassy *[SPA]* 11
King Receives Iranian Official *[SPA]* 11
Official Welcomes Group *[SPA]* 11
Prince Faysal Comments on Talks With Mitterrand *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 11
Reportage on Prince Sa'ud's Visit to France *[cross-reference]* 12

Yemen

State Minister Receives Outgoing Soviet Envoy *[Aden Radio]* 12

IRAQ

Government Ministers Continue Regional Visits 13
Al-Majid Meets Ninawa Governor *[INA]* 13
Ministers Focus on Reconstruction *[INA]* 13
Service Needs Discussed *[INA]* 13
Rebels Admit Government Has Upper Hand in Irbil *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 14
Kurdish Rebels Claim Control of Karkuk 14
Commander Cited *[IRNA]* 14
Thousands of Regime Forces Said Killed *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 14
Control of Suburbs Claimed *[AFP]* 14
Fighting Continues in Al-Basrah, Karkuk *[Tehran Radio]* 15
Clashes Reported in Al-Tannumah *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 15
Masses Battle Regime Forces *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 15
Opposition Radio Reports Clashes in Abu Al-Khasib *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 16
Rebels Claim Control of Part of Al-Nasiriyah *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 16
Dhi Qar Residents Praised for Facing 'Sedition' *[AL-THAWRAH 29 Mar]* 16
Army Cuts Off Kurdish Crossing Point to Syria *[AFP]* 16
SAIRI, Barzani Agree To Continue Uprising *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 17
Relief Efforts, Cease-Fire Resolution Discussed *[Amman JORDAN TIMES 1 Apr]* 17
Papers Discuss, Comment on Nationwide Situation 18
AL-JUMHURIYAH on 'Bright Future' *[INA]* 18
On Foreign Involvement in North *[INA]* 18
On 'Unfounded' BBC Report *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 29 Mar]* 18
AL-THAWRAH on Karkuk 'Propaganda Uproar' *[INA]* 19
On Postwar Job Responsibility *[AL-THAWRAH 29 Mar]* 19
AL-QADISIYAH on Schwarzkopf's 'Secrets' *[INA]* 20
Citizens Urged To Ration Electricity *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Arab League Best Framework To Address Arab Issues *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Students Asked To Report to Conscription Centers *[Baghdad Radio]* 20

ISRAEL

Shamir May Accept 'Functional Linkage' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 3 Apr]* 21
Shamir on Egypt-Syria-Saudi 'Axis,' Iraq *[Jerusalem TV]* 21
Shamir Seeking 'Non-PLO' Negotiating Partner *[AFP]* 21
Palestinian Leaders on Elections in Territories *[AL-FAJR 1 Apr]* 22
Army Official Interviewed on Gaza Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Terrorists Killed in Clash in South Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Two Killed in Territories During 29-30 Mar Curfew *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 31 Mar]* 23
Kurdish Leader Urges Low Profile in Iraq Events *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
AL-FAJR Editorials Discuss Gulf Situation 24
Shamir's Terms for Talks Rejected *[1 Apr]* 24

Rulers Assailed for Freezing PLO Aid *[31 Mar]* 24
Warning Against Undermining PLO *[30 Mar]* 25
Shamir to London, Levi to Paris in Mid-April *[MA'ARIV 1 Apr]* 25

JORDAN

Paper Claims King Husayn To Visit Saudi Arabia *[MENA]* 26
Kuwaitis Deny Violations Against Palestinians *[WAKH]* 26
Jordanians, PLO React to GCC Aid Cut *[JORDAN TIMES 1 Apr]* 26
Paper Criticizes GCC Secretary General *[JORDAN TIMES 3 Apr]* 27
Iraqi Official in Amman To Coordinate Relief Work *[JORDAN TIMES 1 Apr]* 28
Merchants Allowed To Export Food to Iraq *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 2 Apr]* 28
Saudi Airspace Still Closed to RJ Flights *[AL-RAY 2 Apr]* 28

LEBANON

Religious Leader: Hostage Issue at 'Standstill' *[VOL]* 29
Hizballah Official Views Resistance, 'Ubayd Issues *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 29
PLO To Discuss Military Presence With Government *[RFL]* 29
Communist Party To Disarm if Israelis Leave South *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 29
Palestinian Officials View Disarmament Decision *[VOM]* 30
Sa'adah on 'Delicate Situation' After Meeting *[RFL]* 30
Three Explosions Reported in Al-Matn *[RFL]* 30

SYRIA

Al-Asad-Mubarak Talks Bring 'Climate of Confidence' *[Damascus Radio]* 31
Israeli Regional Positions Discussed 31
Increased Pressures Urged *[Damascus Radio]* 31
Stand on UN Resolutions Denounced *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Attitude Toward Just Peace Viewed *[AL-BA'TH 20 Mar]* 32

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

UN Official Meets Najibullah, Discusses Khowst *[Kabul Radio]* 33
Meets Foreign Affairs Minister *[Kabul Radio]* 33
Meli Shura Denounces Pakistan's 'Aggression' *[Kabul Radio]* 33
AFP Reports Casualties From Battle for Khowst *[AFP]* 34
Commentary Criticizes Pakistan, Mujahidin *[Kabul Radio]* 34

Bangladesh

Tribunal Continues Ershad Weapons Trial *[AFP]* 35
Awami League Urges Power Shift to Parliament *[Dhaka Radio]* 36

India

Shekhar Says No Final Decision on Assam Election *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Government Urged To Vote Against Iraq Resolution *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Socialist Party-Lohia Merges With Janata Dal-S *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Haryana Governor Recommends House Dissolution *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Orissa Chief Wants Autonomy, Not Separate State *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Election Commission Queries TV Chief's Transfer *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Ban Urged on Manipulation of Religion for Election *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Four Killed, 14 Injured in Amritsar Bomb Blast *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Two Killed, 17 Injured in Jammu Bomb Blast *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Afghan Envoy Says Pakistani Troops Took Khowst *[AFP]* 37
Sweden Refuses To Reopen Bofors Investigation *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Commentary Reviews Developments in Kashmir *[Delhi International]* 38

Iran

'Thousands' of Iraqi Refugees Request Asylum *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Paper Seeks 'Explanations' for Cooper's Release *[IRNA]* 39
Envoy Informs UN of Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations *[IRNA]* 39
Swiss Foreign Minister Arrives for Meetings *[IRNA]* 39
* RESALAT on 16, 19, 20, Jan Majles Sessions 39
16 Jan Session *[17 Jan]* 39
19 Jan Session *[20 Jan]* 49
20 Jan Session *[21 Jan]* 53

Pakistan

Bhutto Agrees To End PDA Parliament Boycott *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Government Appeals for Aid for Afghan Refugees *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Editorial on Dissolution of Kashmir Assembly *[DAWN 2 Apr]* 57

Sri Lanka

LTTE Reportedly Massacre Sinhala Fishermen *[LANKAPUVATH]* 58

Milhim Denies Plans for Gaza Municipal Elections

NC0204151691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the occupied homeland affairs department, has denied that the PLO has any plans at this time to hold municipal elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Commenting on reports about the visit to Cairo by a Gaza delegation and on talks of possible Gaza municipal elections or appointments with the PLO's approval, Milhim said that municipal elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip cannot be planned in isolation of the entire political process. He also said that discussing municipal elections is not among the tasks of the Gaza delegation currently visiting Cairo.

Milhim explained that Fayiz Abu-Rahmah and his colleagues are working within the framework of the PLO's efforts to activate work, build and establish projects, and find opportunities to end the unemployment which the citizens of the Gaza Strip and West Bank are suffering because of the occupation, continuous curfews, and restrictions on work in the occupied territories. Moreover, he said that Abu-Rahmah is the chairman of a housing committee, and that there was a previous Islamic Bank decision to finance housing projects in the Gaza Strip.

The head of the occupied homeland affairs department thanked the European countries, Japan, and all the countries that helped support the UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] emergency budget which amounted to $33 million. This budget is helping to reduce the suffering of a part of our people in the occupied homeland.

Milhim explained that the Gaza housing project which the delegation took to Cairo was studied some time ago, and that work is underway to set the wheels of life in motion in the occupied territories by supporting and financing projects with OPEC, Islamic Bank, and Arab and Islamic funds.

'Arafat Meets PRC's Ambassador to Tunisia

LD2903193491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday received Mr. Zhu Yinglu, the ambassador of the People's Republic of China [to Tunisia]. The meeting covered the developments of the current situation and the Palestinian issue from its various aspects, particularly the action carried out by the United States in obstructing a resolution by the UN Security Council condemning Israel's recent deportation of four Palestinians from inside [the territories].

PLO Denies Algerian Harassment of Palestinians

LD0304083191 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The PLO has denied that Palestinian residents of Algeria are being subjected to raids and search campaigns by the Algerian authorities, or to acts of deportation from Algeria.

An official spokesman for the organization described what was mentioned by the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM in this regard as fabricated and unfounded. He stressed that the Palestinian residents of Algeria are receiving all kinds of care, solidarity, and support from Algeria.

The Palestinian spokesman expressed hope that the Arab media would be sensitive, especially under the difficult circumstances such as these through which the Arab homeland in general and the Palestinian people in particular are passing.

Islamic Front Issues Statement on Land Day

NC3003163891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] Amman—The Organization of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [OIFLP] has issued a statement on the 15th anniversary of the blessed Palestinian Land Day revolution. The statement says:

This intifadah has proved our people's belief in inevitable victory over the sons of Zion and all the forces of injustice and aggression. It also emphasizes our people's firm and strong will and determination to resist the alien Jews as well as their adherence to their beliefs, their true nobility, and affiliation to their usurped land to purge their sanctities, wrest their usurped rights, win their independence, and establish their independent state on all their usurped land regardless of the sacrifices and conspiracies. The statement also stresses the people's adherence to their beliefs, their genuine nature, their affiliation to their nation and land, and the Islamic nature of all the Palestinian land.

The statement calls for adhering to the PLO as the sole legitimate and national representative of our Palestinian people everywhere. It also calls for entrenching our militant national struggle on all levels.

The statement also stresses that our unity is the source of our strength, revolution, and the continuation of our struggle and sacrifice.

The statement adds that "the mother of battles" would have provided the best chance for our nation, were it not for the treacherous people, who claim to be the advocates of Arabism and Islam.

The statement denounces the massacres being committed against our Palestinian people in Kuwait at the behest of the American forces and their allies, and calls for strongly confronting them.

'Arafat Cables Japanese Friendship Society

LD0204195291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of Palestine, has sent a cable of appreciation to the brothers in the Japanese solidarity and friendship societies on the occasion of their marking of the Palestinian Day of the Land. It says:

The international community and the Security Council in general, and the United States in particular, which had dealt with the Gulf crisis with severity and seriousness, by claiming to preserve the principles of international law and the inadmissibility of taking the lands of others by force, is called upon today, more than at any other time in the past, to show the same seriousness and severity toward the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and other Arab territories. Dealing with any other method constitutes a threat to international peace and to the principles and charters of the United Nations, and dents the credibility of the claim about the establishment of a new international order based on these principles and charters, and shows the danger which this order constitutes to the countries of the Third World and the small countries in the confrontation with the superpower in the world.

Abu-Sharif's Anti-Kuwait Remarks Criticized

PM2603123491 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 22 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Price of Bassam Abu-Sharif's Return"]

[Text] Tunis, London—Informed sources have revealed to AL-ZAHIRAH that Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, was forced to attack Kuwait to make amends for his 13 March remarks to two British television networks, which displeased some sectors of the PLO. His attack on Kuwait was the price of his reinstatement and a guarantee of his personal security before his return to Tunis from his recent European tour.

Abu-Sharif yesterday claimed in remarks reported by AFP that "210 Palestinians have been killed in Kuwait—some as a result of torture and the others by shooting or hanging." He added: They were killed by "the Kuwaitis and were buried in mass graves. Others are being subjected to brutal torture at Kuwaiti police stations!"

The sources say that Bassam Abu-Sharif's statements represent a return to the general line of the policy of the PLO leadership—which has not learned from the lessons of the Gulf war and the losses it has inflicted on the Palestinian people's cause by adopting stances in support of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait's independence and the occupation of Kuwait for seven months—after some PLO leaders expressed their anger at his statements in London. In these remarks he expressed the PLO's willingness to offer land "concessions" in occupied Gaza and West Bank in order to boost the peace process in the Middle East and to reach a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

During his nine-day European tour, Abu-Sharif made numerous contacts to discover how to satisfy the PLO leaders that disapproved of his statements and that forced him to resign from his post as political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat. He reached a compromise whereby he would be reinstated in return for statements attacking Kuwait in order to prove his return to the general line adopted by the PLO.

Abu-Sharif's statement was the latest of the PLO's political mistakes and confirmed the disputes raging among its groups. This is because they included threats that the PLO "will take every step to protect the Palestinian people." UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was not spared criticism, either, because the Palestinian official accused him of being "unable to shoulder his responsibility and of keeping silent about what is happening." The sources say that the statements made by Abu-Sharif, who returned to his Tunis office yesterday evening, hamper the efforts being made by some Arab states to improve the region's image and do not help those who are working for peace and insist on the participation of the Palestinian people's legitimate representatives in the negotiations to that end.

Algeria

Party Discusses General Strike Call

LD0204224491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The Movement for Justice and Democracy Party held a press conference this afternoon at the Es-Safir Hotel which dealt with the message addressed from the party to the president of the republic in addition to issues pertaining to political life, and in particular the issue of early presidential elections. Kasdi Merbah further explains the objective of this press conference:

[Begin recording] [Merbah] In fact I arranged this press conference a few days ago on the basis of the open letter we sent to the president of the republic; this open letter of which the citizens have received some echo. Consequently we would like to talk at the same time about this letter on the early elections for the presidency of the republic, and also on the political, economic and social situation in the country, and even the legislative elections. But in fact we will talk about the last point within the framework of the eight parties.

[Reporter] Mr Kasdi Merbah, you had decided with the seven parties to stage a national strike in the event of noncompliance with your demands concerning the reconsidering of the elections bill. Can we know what form this strike will take, and do you insist on this idea?

[Merbah] We in the eight parties insist on this idea, because the communique issued by the eight parties clearly points out that if the National People's Assembly endorsed the constituencies bill in particular, and if the president of the republic officially publishes this bill, these parties will stage a general national strike to protest this decision or bill, so that the president of the republic will review this point. Today we wait to see whether the president will announce the publication of this law or the date of the elections. Consequently, the eight parties will meet again in order to make a decision on this general national strike. The eight parties carried out a number of measures and contacts in the past week in order to put pressure on the president of the republic to take into consideration the proposal about a new electoral division and also change some of the clauses of the elecitons bill.

[Reporter] What form will this strike take?

[Merbah] We will ask all the citizens and the workers to take part in the national general strike for a day.

[Reporter] A work stoppage, for instance?

[Merbah] Work stoppage, to protest this constituency division bill which is illegal, unconstitutional, undemocratic, and unjust. [end recording]

FIS Head on Attitude on Assembly Elections

LD0204220391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] At the headquarters of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] this afternoon, Cheikh Abbasi Madani held a news conference in which he spoke about the front's attitude to the forthcoming legislative elections, especially after the endorsement of the elections bill and the constituencies division bill. The news from this news conference is that the Front is ready to take part in the forthcoming elections on the condition that its demands are met, principally the holding of early presidential elections parallel with the legislative elections within a period of not longer than three months; otherwise FIS will be forced to declare a general and comprehensive strike. Colleague Mohsen Slimane met Cheikh Madani and talked to him about this.

[Begin recording] [Madani] The statement mentions the need for guarantees to FIS, including the need to hold early presidential elections. Why? Because the president is the one responsible for what happened to the municipalities: the withdrawal of their powers. If the powers of the municipalities were withdrawn, and if we go back to the Constitution, we find that it empowers the president to withdraw the powers of the National Assembly. So what is the point of this election?

[Slimane] In the event of the government or the president not accepting the idea of early presidential elections, will FIS take part in the legislative elections without presidential elections?

[Madani] No, it will not. Instead there will be a general strike, God willing.

[Slimane] What form will this general comprehensive strike take?

[Madani] We will give further details when it is announced, God willing.

[Slimane] Are there other Islamic or democratic parties which will take part in the strike with FIS?

[Madani] The idea is still new, we still need to see the attitude of the other parties.

[Slimane] Regarding the two bills on elections and the constituencies: does the front reject them?

[Madani] Yes, because they are built on injustice and falsehood, and we cannot agree to injustice. [end recording]

Parliament Speaker on APN Session, Elections

LD0204145991 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Interview conducted by "our colleague" Amal Meddah with Abdelaziz Belkhadem, speaker of the National People's Assembly, APN, date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Meddah] Abdelaziz Belkhadem, what is your assessment of the APN's extraordinary session?

[Belkhadem] In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate. As I told my colleagues, this session is extraordinary in terms of its content and extraordinary also in terms of its legal interpretation, because it was convened at the request of the prime minister. It is extraordinary in terms of its content because during this session, some files, which are directly linked to our experiment in the consecration of democracy, were included in the agenda. The democratic change, the protection of the process of this change, and the consecration of this democratic change must be embodied in laws which guarantee integrity, openness, and also free competition between all the political parties at the forthcoming legislative elections. During this session, we endorsed the electoral law and the law on the division of constituencies. The new thing about this division of constituencies is that it widens the base of the people's representation at the central level, the level of the legislative power.

[Meddah] Thank you, Mr. Abdelaziz Belkhadem, what is your position on the call made by some political parties for the formation of a commission of inquiry to investigate the issue of the financing of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] by foreign quarters?

[Belkhadem] It is not a question of position. We have to go back to the brother leaders of the FIS and ask them. There is no need to go beyond asking the brothers about this issue because if the allegation is confirmed, it is a violation of the law.

[Meddah] Now that the APN has endorsed the electoral law, with its various amendments, does the eight political parties' threat to launch a general strike remain real?

[Belkhadem] It is the right of the opposition to take positions which differ from those of the ruling party. The question is to know whether the strike will be beneficial to the consecration of social and political pluralism, in other words, the legitimacy of the existence of social and political pluralism, because I believe that political pluralism is a means and an end in itself. It is an end in itself because it is an embodiment of the basic liberties, which are a right for the individual and the group. Moreover, political pluralism is a means to achieve other objectives, foremost comprehensive economic development, social justice, and the entrenchment of Islamic values. This could be achieved by releasing the energies and capabilities of individuals and groups in all fields. Therefore, the consecration of political pluralism is linked to the serious endeavor to realize this development and justice. A boycott of the elections by some political parties is not in the interest of this experiment.

[Meddah] Thank you, Mr. Abdelaziz Belkhadem.

Ecology Party Applies for Legalization

LD0204131991 Algiers APS in English 1149 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Algiers, 02/04/91 (APS)—The party of "Ecology and Freedom" applied for legalization Monday [1 April] at the Interior Ministry. The chairman of the first ecological party in Algeria and probably in the Arab world, Dr Smail Boulbina, exposed during a meeting with the press, the reasons of the creation of this party which is "not like others" because as this is indicated by its name, it will be concerned by the environment of Algerians and their individual freedoms.

The chairman of this party cited a number of overtakings and crimes against nature as well as the absence of any frame of defence of environment on the one hand and the interest raised by this question in citizens on the other hand. The association "Ecology and Freedom" aims, according to its status at a better insertion of man in his milieu, the promotion of ecology in social, cultural, economic and political life of the country, at safeguarding environment and militating for social justice and acting for a better quality of life.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Confers With Arab League Official

NC0304120291 Cairo MENA in English 1100 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, April 3 (MENA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid conferred here today with acting secretary general of the Arab League As'ad al-As'ad who said following the meeting that they discussed the outcome of the meetings of the League's Council which were held in Cairo on Saturday last.

Al-As'ad said that the meeting was important and positive and that it indicated the Arab countries unanimity and their wish in restoring the dialogue and consolidating the homeland.

The Arab League's acting secretary-general also held consultations with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid concerning the two meetings to be invited [as received] by the League's Secretariat-general at the levels of Arab permanent delegates and foreign ministers in implementation of the League's Council.

Al-As'ad said that the meeting of the permanent delegates will be held before the end of this month to discuss

the financial and administrative matters while consultations are currently underway to determine the date for holding the foreign ministers conference.

Arab League Representative Terms Meetings Positive

NC3103074591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, Egypt's representative to the Arab League, has said that the meetings of the Arab League Council were positive because all Arab states participated in the meetings and also because no disputes or wrangling took place during the meetings. He added: During the meetings, everybody agreed that the time is not suitable now for opening old files or discussing sensitive issues, particularly because bitterness is still in our mouths and wounds have not yet healed.

In a statement to MENA, Ambassador Abu-al-Nasr went on to say: Everyone found it reasonable to accept a proposal submitted by Jordan and approved by Egypt and the other Arab states to keep the session open until later to allow consultations among Arab foreign ministers to tackle any obstructions that may hamper joint Arab action at the proper level and on time.

Ambassador Abu-al-Nasr noted that yesterday's meeting was a constructive step that should not be underestimated, especially if we look at it in view of statements made about one month ago, when some Arab states were saying that they would launch another Arab league in Tunis.

Syrian Information Minister's Interview Cited

NC0304122091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0908 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said Syria is in a state of war with Israel, that Israel is practicing state terrorism and refuses to implement international resolutions, and that Israeli leaders' statements on Syria are part of a psychological warfare campaign.

In an interview with the Cairo publication AL-MUSAWWAR, to be published tomorrow, he said: We support the implementation of international resolutions on a solution to the conflict in the region, resolutions that call for an international conference for peace in the region in which all parties will participate.

He added that the U.S. Administration's announcement about rejecting Israel's measures annexing Golan represents the continuation of the United States' position on this issue since 1981.

He went on to say that the United States looks at issues from the point of view of a superpower and seeks, through its dialogue with the Arab side, to establish a just and comprehensive peace, and that the United States should be committed to the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian issue and Lebanon.

He said: We develop our international relations on a basis that serves our own and pan-Arab interests and causes within the framework of international laws and charters.

He added: The positive development in our relations with the United States does not deviate from this basis, which emerged in particular at the Geneva summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and President George Bush, and from this summit's outcome on current issues, such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Lebanese problem, and the Gulf crisis.

On current issues in the region, the Syrian information minister said his country welcomes the restoration of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran because it enhances ties between the two countries and establishes goodneighborly relations. He noted that Iran has no expansionist intentions toward Iraq and that Iran, like other countries in the region, is interested in Iraq's unity and non-partition.

Commenting on the Damascus Declaration, he said it defines the practical bases for the beginning of an Arab situation relying on interests and goals of countries belonging to a single Arab nation.

He added that Arab security is an inseparable whole, and that when Syria, Egypt, and the six Gulf states agreed in the Damascus Declaration on practical security arrangements, they did not close the door to the remaining Arab brothers to contribute to the new Arab order in its various economic, political, military, and strategic aspects.

He said that a scrupulous reading of the Damascus Declaration shows clearly that an opportunity is now available to Arabs for joint action in the economic and security fields from the perspective of a pan-Arab position and collective responsibility, after it had been shown that the policies of adventurism and inter-Arab conflicts benefit no one except the enemies of Arabs. He added: Our stand on the Palestinian cause is a firm and principled one. We regard it as the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The aim of our effort is a solution of this issue that would regain the Palestinian people's national rights and eliminate the Zionist danger, which affects every Arab.

On the Gulf crisis, he said: The Syrian view has always been wise. An example of this is that Syria warned Kuwait in 1981 that Iraq would turn toward them once its war with Iran had ended. This was proven by events when Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August.

Commenting on the situation in Lebanon, he said: We believe that the establishment of the legitimate government's authority over Lebanese territory will definitely drive Lebanon toward stability and security. This, in turn, will help end the role of the militias and bring about law and order.

He noted that Syria will provide every assistance to enable the Lebanese legitimate authorities to consolidate

its control and extend its sovereignty so it can consolidate its legitimate presence in commitment to and implementation of the al-Ta'if conference resolutions.

Concluding his interview, the Syrian information minister said that Syria is exerting efforts to help release hostages of many nationalities being held in Lebanon.

Commentary on Arab Unity After Gulf Crisis

NC0204204091 Cairo Television Service in English 1818 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Salim Rizqallah commentary carried on the "Spotlights on the News" feature]

[Text] When we said that the Middle East, or for that matter the mood in the entire Arab world will never be the same following the Gulf war, we meant just that. Indeed, the Gulf crisis which broke out with the invasion of Kuwait on August 2 led to a serious split between the Arab governments; a split which cannot possibly be construed as a mere summer cloud with no impact on either the present, or the future.

This clarification is of prime importance today as the Arab League holds its first ordinary session in Cairo following the liberation of Kuwait. Reconciliation is neither a word nor a demonstration. It is a feeling based on confidence and trust, a feeling which most certainly is not prevalent today and cannot be for quite some time.

The treachery, the tragic developments which tore the Arab world apart as never before, and the bitter conflict between right and wrong within the group of ruling Arab governments in the wake of the Iraqi march into the sovereign land of a peaceful unoffending Arab neighbor are food for thought, leaving behind a sour taste diametrically opposed to the very concept of trust and confidence.

Whatever the arguments and verbal jugglings by some governments to justify their outrageous behavior, the truth is that those characters rushed to Saddam Husayn's camp not out of conviction but driven by greed and blind ambition for a slice of the cake. The Arab governments in conflict did not represent points of view deemed plausible in any debate, for in the case of aggression and seizure of sovereign land there can be no two opinions, but one and one alone governed by the provisions of international law and the UN Charter in both letter and spirit.

In the Gulf affair most of, if not all, the Arab rulers who sided with the tyrant of Baghdad for a price seemed to feel that their attitude was so outrageously flagrant that they had to denounce the invasion of Kuwait officially while talking and conniving with Saddam Husayn in the dark to tighten his grip on the treacherously acquired loot and further his ambitions for more.

Before such a trial, nobody can afford to push matters aside and simply say: Let bygones be bygones. A close scrutiny is a must. The ravages are too grizzly. It is not the backing alone of Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait by some Arab rulers and governments that needs to be looked into but the condonement of his brutality against the Kuwait people and the destruction of the oil installations and facilities with the invading troops putting 600 oil wells to the torch before falling back.

Nothing miraculous will come out of the Arab League meeting. A complete change of course is needed on the part of those who deliberately sided with the aggressor before confidence and trust would so far as even stand a chance of being restored. The presence of the Iraqi delegate at the Arab League meeting should be viewed with great caution without committing the blunder of giving the matter an interpretation that just is not there.

Saddam Husayn has no pangs of conscience. He hasn't dispatched his delegate to the Arab session because of any qualms or regrets. Indeed, the only regrets he has and with bitterness, too, is the fact that he was forced to let go and was pushed out of Kuwait with the Security Council listing rigid conditions for a cease-fire that would trim his claws once and for all.

Not only have things changed, but more important still is that the Gulf crisis has unmasked the ugly faces of a number of Arab rulers and governments so that today it would be both ironic and cynical to speak about unity and solidarity on the prevalent conditions.

In the past, the Arabs seem to have embraced a unity based on silence and on acquiescence to evil in their own ranks. This is no longer acceptable whatever the arguments and sugar-coated words. But the Arab countries that have chosen to stand with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have cast off the chains of a meaningless myth that has held them enthralled for decades. The confrontation with Iraq was the beginning of a meaningful Arab identity in world affairs. By going to war with the tyrant of Baghdad, Egypt, Syria, and the others have changed history. In the name of an Arab unity that existed only on the most superficial level the modern Arab states have refused until the Gulf crisis broke out to recognize and cut out the moral cancer that has spread across their collective entity.

They have refused to confirm the evil that Saddam Husayn and a few other Arab dictators have supported and come to embody. Arab unity meant a descent to the lowest common denominator for all Arabs. The rape of Kuwait showed that the malignancy now threatened the entire Arab family. Saddam Husayn had forced his fellow Arab rulers to choose whether they would continue to mouth slogans and connive with him for a price, or would act to protect themselves from a rabid creature, loosed in their midst.

Those who resisted him and fought him showed that Saddam Husayn did not represent Arab values or Arab nationalism, that elusive concept being falsely invoked by some at one time to condone the invasion, the destruction, and the plundering of Kuwait.

By stopping and defeating Saddam Husayn and his wild dreams, the Arab states that sided with justice had begun

to define a new more hopeful nationalism, and this they are not ready to give up, or allow those who acted in collusion with the aggressor of Baghdad for a share of the loot to push the Arab world back to square one under false pretenses of defending that old myth of Arab unity and solidarity. However slow the pace, and however limited the ground covered progress toward Arab solidarity should be genuine and not a coverup used by some to further self-centered ambitions and reveal their infamous hidden motives in time.

Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia and their Arab allies have chosen to put that fantasy of Saddam Husayn and his supporters aside and to give Arab nationalism its true meaning, a meaning totally alien to that frustration and hatred stirred by the man in Baghdad and others to justify their greed and (plunder). In no way does this imply, however, that the Arab allies who stood against aggression are not ready to cooperate with all the Arab governments for a new chapter in Arab relations. But this chapter has to be totally realistic, positive, and constructive not only to avert further disasters but to steer Arab affairs in a manner that would breed confidence and trust both at home and abroad.

Courtesy at the expense of Arab interests has no place any more. Matters have to be dealt with frankly and firmly, allowing no room for deviousness. Following the disaster that befell the Arab world and the deep scars left behind by Saddam Husayn's grim venture, it would be unforgivable for any Arab country to allow any government or regime under any pretext to plunge the Arab world once again into a state of fear and turmoil.

All have to be on the alert to make sure that divergence would not put everybody off course. Jealousy and grudges are there for some reason or the other. Those running the show in some Arab countries may not be on the level. But their actions and line of conduct should never be condoned. Otherwise, all become accessories and the result is outright confusion that baffles the man in the street who starts wondering how come that those devious rulers and governments were not checked in time and how come that official statements following all and every meeting hailed Arab solidarity and unanimity when indeed everything was so deplorably superficial but the whole picture was shattered at the first crucial test allowing a dictator to wreak havoc in the entire region with a number of Arab governments acting in collusion with him and pouring their wrath on the Arab countries that rushed to repel aggression and enforce justice.

Such facts call for a pause. Indulging in idealism will get us nowhere. The grim lesson of the Gulf tragedy should bring us down to earth. The loquacious nonsense we heard today from those who slandered us and attacked us yesterday going so far as to connive with each other in a bid to destabilize this country fools no one.

As President Mubarak has so clearly and unequivocally put it, the normalization of relations with those who sided with Saddam Husayn needs time. The so-called reconciliation cannot be without a serious confrontation with those countries which until this day are trying to ship terrorists and indulge in subversive activities.

Without frankness and directness of approach—in another words without a showdown—where all cards are laid on the table and where irrevocable moral principles are agreed upon to govern Arab relations and pan-Arab behavior, without that all the sour taste will be ever there and trust and confidence will never be there, whatever the rhetoric and slogans mouthed.

Report Warns of Youth Unemployment Increase

NC0304010891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)—A parliamentary report issued by the Egyptian Consultative Council has warned that the rate of unemployment among young people this year reached 17.5 percent of the labor force. It warned that this rate could increase to 21 percent in 1995 if the necessary efforts were not made to deal with the situation. It could possibly reach 24.5 percent in the year 2000.

The report recommended the adoption of policies and measures to limit unemployment among the young. It noted that this requires that the industrial sector play its true role in absorbing a large part of the labor force, that investment and development policies be reassessed, vocational training and retraining programs expanded, and education policy linked to labor market needs in order to limit unemployment among university graduates.

The report added that according to the estimates and assessments of the Labor Ministry, the labor force consisted of around 15,091,241 workers. This figure will go up to around 17,288,158 workers by 1995 and then to around 19,706,335 in the year 2000.

Libya

Syrian Vice President Khaddam Arrives 2 Apr

NC0204213191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Tripoli at 1830 today on a visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He was received at Tripoli International Airport by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi and senior officials in the Jamahiriyah.

Views on Gulf Situation 'Unified'

LD0304083391 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received brother 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of fraternal Syria, who conveyed to him a verbal message from President Hafiz al-Asad concerning current Arab conditions. The meeting was also attended by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi.

JANA has learned that the viewpoints are unified on rejecting anything going beyond the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Kuwait crisis, and also on rejecting any foreign military presence in the area whether in the form of armed units or stockpiling of arms and equipment.

The draft resolution submitted to the UN Security Council concerning the cease-fire in the Gulf was also raised. The viewpoints were identical in that the resolution should also include disarming from deadly weapons in the entire area, particularly the Israelis who are in possession of nuclear, chemical, and germ weapons; otherwise, the resolution would be considered an act biased toward the Israelis and must be resisted.

It was also stressed that America must not be allowed to exclusively draft the cease-fire resolution, in view of the fact that eight Arab countries took part in the operation of liberating Kuwait.

The viewpoints were identical concerning speeding up the establishment of Arab unity and removal of the borders between Arab countries, which had been created by colonialism.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Messages to African Leaders

LD0204152191 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has paid a visit to Chad, Niger, and Mali, during which he delivered letters from the brother leader of the revolution. [passage omitted]

In Ndjamena President Idriss Muhammad [as heard] Deby received the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation who conveyed to him a letter from the brother leader of the revolution. [passage omitted]

President Idriss Deby expressed his high appreciation for the brother leader of the revolution, saying: The Chadian leadership, all the sons of the Chadian people, and I cannot forget the historic role of the brother leader of the revolution and the Arab Libyan people in supporting the cause of freedom in Chad, which triumphed with the defeaat of the dictatorship of 'Ibri [the Hebrew, a pun on Habre's name] and colonialism. He said: We consider that the promotion of Arab Libyan-Chadian relations is an irreversible policy as far as we concerned. They are fraternal relations guided by history, cordial ties, and the joint struggle.

The brother secretary told the Chadian president that the brother leader of the revolution pays particular interest to stability and peace in Chad, and to the importance of the establishment of security in this country, given the ordeals of the civil war and colonial interventions suffered by the Chadian people, which had imposed the dictatorship that was defeated forever last December.

At the end of the meeting Idriss Muhammad Deby asked the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation to convey his warm wishes and high regard to the internationalist leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and his great appreciation of the role he is playing to affirm the freedom of African man.

In Niamey President Ali Saibou of Niger received the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, who conveyed to him a letter from the brother leader of the revolution concerning the promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries, and the importance attached by the brother leader of the revolution to security and stability in this region, especially the question of security and safety of the border areas between Niger and Chad.

President Ali Saibou lauded the excellent relations linking him personally with the brother leader, and the extreme importance he attaches to joint cooperation between the two countries, stressing that Niger is greatly interested in the security of all these minorities, and that it is not Niger's policy to harm its neighbors, or to enable foreign powers to harm their security, stability, and territorial integrity.

In Bamako the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met with the brothers, Amadou Toure, chairman of the Provisional Committee for the Salvation of the People [as heard], and the members of the committee that took power after the former president was toppled.

After the brother secretary conveyed at the beginning of the meeting the congratulations of the brother leader of the revolution on the fact that the popular masses in Mali were able, by their free will, to topple and defeat the dictatorship, he stressed that what they did had stopped the massacre that was taking place during recent weeks, causing hundreds of unarmed civilian Malian casualties.

Amadou Toure stressed the great appreciation felt for the brother leader of the revolution by the masses of the Malian people in particular, and by Africa in general. He said that both he and his comrades, members of the committee, are trying to set up the best relations with the Arab Libyan people, and the people in Mali will never forget the initiative of the brother leader in sending an envoy at this precise moment.

Amadou Toure also made a plea to the brother leader of the revolution to examine the possibility for Arab Libyan hospitals to treat some of the sons of the Malian people who were injured recently.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Returns From UK Visit 2 Apr

NC0304012591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2055 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Manama, 2 Apr (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah has returned to Manama from London after a working visit to the United Kingdom that lasted for a few days. During the visit, the Bahraini minister held talks with British Government officials on ways to promote relations between the two friendly countries, the current situation in the region following the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy, current Arab and international issues, and issues of common interest.

Kuwait

Ministry Statement on Issuing Return Permits

LD0204223991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2040 GMT 2 Apr 91

["Communique from the Ministry of the Interior in the state of Kuwait—from the "Kuwait Message"]

[Excerpts] After God has blessed us with the return of our beloved territory and added to His grace to us so that we can arrange the return of its sons, we are happy to announce to the honorable citizens the beginning of issuing permits for return to the beloved homeland, bearing in mind that the timetable for issuing the entry permit to Kuwaiti citizens will apply from 17 Ramadan 1411, corresponding to 2 April 1991, according to the attached schedule. [passage omitted]

The required documents are as follows:

1. Kuwaiti nationality.
2. Kuwaiti passport.
3. Kuwait civil card.
4. Personal ID issued by the embassy.
5. Personal ID card.
6. Four photographs.
7. Identification from al-Khafji entry committee.

[passage omitted]

Important notices:

First, those honorable citizens whose numbers are not quoted in the above-mentioned schedule are requested to refrain from referring to the committees until their numbers have been announced at a subsequent time, so as to avoid overcrowding.

Second, this announcement does not entitle the bearer to direct entry to Kuwait. The bearer will have to wait until further instructions have been issued.

Third, when collecting the return permits, the honorable Kuwaiti citizens are requested to supply four photographs each for the husband, the wife, and any children who are above 18 years of age.

We wish a safe return to all.

Oman

Further Reportage on Somali Premier's Visit

Official Talks Held

NC0104153491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1128 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Muscat, 1 Apr (WAKH)—An official round of talks was held in Muscat today between the Omani side, led by Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, and the Somali side, headed by Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib, who is currently visiting Muscat. [passage omitted]

Following the talks, the Somali prime minister told the OMANI NEWS AGENCY that his talks were very successful and fruitful. He added that discussions dealt with the current situation in Somalia and bilateral cooperation. He paid tribute to the progress and prosperity the Sultanate has witnessed in various spheres over the past few years.

Ghalib Accuses Kenya of Aiding Opponents

NC0304032091 Paris AFP in English 0259 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Muscat, April 3 (AFP)—Somali Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib on Tuesday [2 April] accused Kenya of sending ammunition to opponents of the new Somali regime and called for help from African and Arab states, the Omani news agency ONA said.

The Somali prime minister, who arrived here Monday [1 April] on the fifth leg of his tour of the Gulf states, said his government had "information that Kenya is helping (opposition) elements responsible for the destruction of Somalia's economic resources by supplying ammunition."

He said Kenya was guilty of "aggression" and called on the Organization of African Unity and the Arab League to "intervene to ease the crisis."

He said the new Somali president, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, sent a message to Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi calling for an improvement of bilateral relations. "The appeal has remained a dead letter," he said.

The Somali prime minister has visited Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain, seeking political and economic support for the new Somali regime, which replaced that of former President Mohammed Siad Barre, overthrown last January.

Leaves Muscat 3 Apr

NC0304143491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0802 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Muscat, 3 Apr (WAKH)—Omar Arteh Ghalib, head of the Somali transitional government, left Muscat today following a four-day official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the visit, the Somali official held talks with senior Omani officials concerning cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Qatar

General Schwarzkopf Arrives on Two-Day Visit

NC0104145491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1345 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Doha, 1 Apr (WAKH)—General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the Gulf, arrived in Doha today on an official two-day visit as part of his tour of the region. On his arrival at Doha international airport, he was received by Chief of Staff Colonel Pilot Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani, U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Mark Hambley, and a number of senior officers of the Qatari Armed Forces.

Received by Amir

NC0104214591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2005 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Doha, 1 Apr (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani received General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the Gulf, in Doha this evening.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; Chief of Staff Colonel Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani; U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Mark Hambley; and the delegation accompanying the U.S. commander.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reports that the discussion during the meeting dealt with the situation in the region since the Gulf war and the liberation of the State of Kuwait, the arrangements to bring security and stability to the region, and ways of bolstering cooperation and friendship between the State of Qatar and the United States in all fields.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani congratulated Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf on the big success of the Desert Storm operation and for achieving its objectives of liberating the State of Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation and reaffirming international legitimacy. His highness also praised the general's unique efforts and wise leadership, which won the appreciation of the whole world.

His highness the amir praised the responsible stand the United States has adopted on the Gulf crisis. It is on the side of justice and international legitimacy, and it confronted injustice and aggression under President George Bush. The President spared no effort to mobilize the largest international alliance to confront the aggression and the violation of peoples rights and to safeguard the independence of homelands and uphold international legitimacy.

His highness said that Desert Storm will be a brilliant landmark in history. It was a turning point in the attempt to enhance the values and principles of a world order that is based on rejecting the logic of aggression and hegemony and reaffirming the principles of peace, freedom, and justice.

In appreciation for Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf's heroic role, his unique performance, and his dedication in the performance of his duties, the Qatari amir bestowed on him the Sash of Independence, the highest Qatari medal.

Gen. Schwarzkopf expressed his thanks and his deep appreciation for this honor. He praised the State of Qatar's positive and forceful role from the start of the crisis and its efective role in facilitating the task of the forces of the international alliance, and for the heroic role the Qatari forces had assumed during the military operations to liberate Kuwait and restore it to its people, proud and dignified after having regained its freedom and independence.

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Jordanian King To Visit

LD0204204391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Riyadh, 2 Apr (SPA)—With reference to the report carried today in 'AL-HAYAH' quoting what it called an informed diplomatic source that King Husayn will visit the Kingdom shortly and that he is expected to meet with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, a responsible source has told SPA: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has no knowledge of this visit and there is no truth to the report of 'AL-HAYAH' in this connection."

Syrian Foreign Minster Arrives in Jeddah 1 Apr

LD0104213791 Riyadh SPA in English 1930 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Jeddah, April 1, SPA—Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister, arrived here today on a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On arrival at King 'Abd-al-Aziz Airport, he was greeted by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and senior officials.

King Receives Al-Asad Message

LD0104221291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2132 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Holy Mecca, 1 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a leter from His Excellency President Hafiz Al-'Asad of Syria. The letter was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' when the king received him in his office at the Royal Court in al-Safa palace today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Further Reportage on Iranian Delegation's Visit

Delegation Opens Embassy

LD0104135591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1315 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Apr SPA—The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran which is now visiting the Kingdom today opened the headquarters of the Iranian Embassy in the embassy quarter in Riyadh and hoisted the Iranian flag over the building.

A representative from the Protocol Administration at the Foreign Ministry and correspondents from the local media participated in the ceremony.

King Receives Iranian Official

LD0304053391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Mecca, 2 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, today received in the royal bureau at the al-Safa palace Ambassador Mostafa Ha'eri, head of the Gulf Affairs Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, and the delegation accompanying him.

Official Welcomes Group

LD0304054391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The foreign under secretary for political affairs, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mansuri, today received at the ministry's headquarters in Jeddah the Iranian delegation that is visiting the Kingdom on the occasion of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Al-Mansuri welcomed the Iranian delegation and expressed the happiness of the Kingdom's Government at the resumption of diplomatic relations. He confirmed that the relations between the two countries, which are based on goodneighborliness and dominated by the Islamic fraternal spirit, will have their positive effects on the stability of the region and the future of the Islamic nation.

He also confirmed that the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques dictate the welcoming of the Iranian pilgrims and the provision of all facilities which allow their comfort and performing their pilgramage rights with ease and tranquility.

The audience was attended by Salim Sunbul, director general of the ministry's branch in the Western region.

Prince Faysal Comments on Talks With Mitterrand

NC0204232691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal by Faridah al-Shubashi in Paris on 2 April; carried within the "Panorama" program—recorded]

[Text] [al-Shubashi] Your Highness, have there been any new French-Saudi initiatives during your talks with President Mitterrand?

[Al-Faysal] In fact, I had the honor to deliver a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques to his excellency the president. The message deals with the great appreciation the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have for the noble stand that France adopted during the Gulf crisis. The talks were productive and positive. There was also the hope that at the end of this tragic stage in the Gulf which came about as a result of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and following Kuwait's return to its people, real peace will be established, a peace that will safeguard everyone's interests and that will establish a solid basis for constructive cooperation toward the entrenchement of peace.

It gives me great pleasure to say that the views of the custodian of the two holy mosques and his excellency the president in this respect are identical. Of course, this was not an occasion for the discussion of new initiatives. However, we had the opportunity to exchange views on future steps in this regard. We were informed that France will submit an initiative to the United Nations on the situation and tragedy of the Iraqi people. It goes without saying that we will study this initiative. We have no doubts about France's motives in this respect.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Highness, will the French and Arab move be a comprehensive French-Arab move, or a French and Arab move in a bilateral way that will involve Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Morocco?

[Al-Faysal] There are common objectives. Opportunities that are available now should be exploited to establish real peace in the region. I do not believe that this means security in the Gulf region only but the general situationin the Middle East, particularly with respect to the

Palestinian cause. The two countries emphasize that they will try to seriously and sincerely help find a just solution that will secure for the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

Reportage on Prince Sa'ud's Visit to France

WA0204200691

For reportage on the one-day visit by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to Paris, including reports on his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, please see the France section of the 3 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Yemen

State Minister Receives Outgoing Soviet Envoy

EA0304093291 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, yesterday received Soviet Ambassador Veniamin Popov, who is at the end of his tour of duty to the Yemeni Republic. During the meeting both men reviewed relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and methods of developing them.

Government Ministers Continue Regional Visits

Al-Majid Meets Ninawa Governor

NC0304082991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Mosul, 3 Mar (INA)—'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [and interior minister], has met with Ninawa Governor Tahir Tawfiq. The INA correspondent in the governorate reports that the meeting was attended by Minister of State Arshad Ahmad al-Zibari; Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Khalil Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; and Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih. The discussion during the meeting dealt with ways to develop and extend services to the various parts of the governorate and to speed up the distribution of food to the areas that were subjected to sabotage by the saboteurs.

Ministers Focus on Reconstruction

NC0204200691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)—'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Sabbagh, minister of agriculture and irrigation, has met with Tahir Tawfiq, Nineveh governor and chairman of the governorate's national agricultural campaign. The two reviewed the agricultural situation in the governorate and the services rendered to the citizens in this field. The talks dealt with the advanced stages of the agricultural campaign and the ongoing preparations for the wheat and barley harvest campaign.

The INA correspondent in the governorate said that the minister met with the agricultural landowners in the governorate and urged them to promote the services needed by the governorate citizens in the agricultural sphere in order to expand the agricultural areas and increase agricultural products. The minister underlined the importance of meeting the needs of peasants and farmers in terms of seeds, fuel, equipment, and agricultural machines in a bid to increase the output of each donum [about 2,500 square meters] of agricultural land. [passage omitted]

In the Governorate of Karbala', Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labor and social affairs, met with Governor 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-'Aziz and discussed the best ways to promote the steps taken by the ministry departments to increase the services rendered to the citizens in the governorate. The minister visited the ministry compound building, the al-Raja'and al-Amal Institutes, and the homes of the elderly. In these visits, he met with the staff members and asked them to immediately reorganize the situation in these departments which were subjected to sabotage by the agents who sold themselves to the foreigner. The minister inspected the barbaric destruction caused to the elderly peoples' homes, centers for the retarded, and nurseries, all of which offer humanitarian services to the citizens. The minister was briefed on the means to repair these places to enable them resume their activities and offer their services.

In al-Qadisiyah, Minister of Finance Majid 'Abd Ja'far met with the directors of finance departments and al-Rashid and al-Rafidayn banks in al-Qadisiyah Governorate. The meeting was attended by the deputy governor. Discussions centered on work conditions and services offered to the citizens there. The discussions also dealt with the necessary means to overcome the difficulties and reorganize these departments which were targets of acts of sabotage and loot by the gangs of saboteurs and agents. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Minister of Planning Samal Majid Faraj has met with Karbala' Governor 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-'Aziz and discussed with him ways to promote work and the departments' performance. They also discussed the needs of these departments. The minister of planning instructed that teams and joint committees be formed for replanning and construction purposes and for the repair of the damage inflicted on these departments by the criminal saboteurs.

Service Needs Discussed

NC0204154491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)—'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini, minister of transport and communications, visited the al-Muthanna Governorate today. The minister chaired a meeting at the governorate that was attended by al-Muthanna Governor Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad and the ministry's departments directors. They discussed the best ways to speed up the reconstruction of the ministry's installations and departments which were subjected to acts of sabotage and destruction.

The INA correspondent in the governorate said that the minister reiterated during the meeting the ministry's determination and commitment to offer the best services to the citizens by expediting the reconstruction of the areas devastated by the criminal mobs.

Minister al-Ma'ini inspected the ministry's installations and departments in the governorate which were sabotaged, looted, and set ablaze. The minister instructed the competent authorities to repair all important telephone lines and to immediately embark on repairing the bridges so that the railroad can become operational as soon as possible.

The minister then visited the Dhi Qar Governorate and met with Governor 'Aziz Salih al-Numan and a number of governorate officials. The minister discussed the ongoing efforts to restore telephone lines in the governorate's departments and services centers. The minister stressed the need for speeding up work to repair and renovate the ministry's departments in the governorate and offer services to the citizens. The minister toured the ministry's departments in the governorate and inspected

the telephone exchanges, post offices, and railroad stations which were sabotaged and looted. He gave instructions to rendering the necessary services to the citizens as soon as possible.

The INA correspondent in the Dhi Qar Governorate reported that the Ministry of Transport and Communications departments there have resumed their postal and services operations. The departments, the correspondent added, continue their efforts to repair telephone exchanges in al-Nasiriyah, districts, and sub-districts. The departments have adopted the necessary measures to rebuild the roads, bridges, and railroads.

In another development, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met today with the secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, Irbil Branch, and a number of directors of the trade centers in the governorate. During the meeting, they reviewed the urgent tasks which must be undertaken by the ministry's trade centers with the aim of offering the best services to the citizens in the governorate.

The minister, who supervised the unloading of the flour-laden trucks, called on the distributors to receive their share of flour and foodstuff items for the month of April for distribution among the citizens. The minister, accompanied by the secretary of the party's Irbil branch, inspected a number of quarters, warehouses, central market, and silos which were looted, sabotaged, and set ablaze by the gangs of traitors and agents.

Rebels Admit Government Has Upper Hand in Irbil

NC0304072991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] According to reports from the northern areas, government forces are continuing their advance in fighting to recapture areas that had been seized earlier by the Kurdish fighters.

Until early this morning, the Kurds were continuing to deny the government's reports about the recapture of Irbil and [name indistinct]. However, they finally admitted that their weapons are outclassed by the Iraqi Army's tanks, heavy artillery, and helicopters. They noted that the battles are still continuing inside Irbil at a time when the government forces control a large part of the city. [passage indistinct]

Kurdish Rebels Claim Control of Karkuk

Commander Cited

LD0104150191 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 1, IRNA—The commander of the popular forces in Iraq said in a military communique Monday that in fighting for taking control of the city of Karkuk in Iraq over the past few weeks the city had been recaptured several times from the hands of government forces and that 7,000 government soldiers had been killed.

The communique added that the militant Kurds captured the city of Leylan, south of Karkuk in northern Iraq, Saturday and strengthened their positions over parts of Karkuk.

The communique also said that on Saturday the militant Kurds in Iraq launched four operations in Touzkhormatu, Kafritazeh, and Matep in northern Iraq destroying many government tanks and capturing tens of soldiers and officers.

Thousands of Regime Forces Said Killed

NC0204170491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1422 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Within the framework of the attack and retreat method, the Kurdish revolution forces have succeeded in confronting what remains of the regime's forces in Karkuk. They engaged in violent battles with them, in which thousands of the regime's forces were killed.

While the Kurdish revolutionaries tightened their control once again on the center and north of Karkuk, later on today they succeeded in regaining control of the southern part of the city which the regime's forces had succeeded in infiltrating some time earlier. They also succeeded in expelling the mercenaries of the authorities in the region of (?Milan).

In another development, the regime has admitted the failure of its attack on the city of Karkuk. This admission came in a news item published in the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH.

Control of Suburbs Claimed

NC0204153191 Paris AFP in English 1436 GMT 02 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 2 (AFP)—Kurdish rebels have recaptured the suburbs of the northern Iraqi city of Karkuk, but troops loyal to President Saddam Husayn control the city center and all oil installations, a rebel group here said.

The Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] also said in a communique here that rebels hold 70 per cent of al-Ta'mim Governorate, which surrounds Karkuk, and all of Dahuk "were Tuesday in the hands of the peshmergas (Kurdish rebels)."

The group said that "government forces effectively controlled the center of Karkuk whose population had abandoned it, as well as the main roads leading to Baghdad and Irbil, and all of the oil installations.

"But half of the city, including most of the suburbs and all the villages of the governorate are in our hands, and heavy fighting is occurring," the DPK said, adding that its leader, Mas'ud Barzani was still in Salah al-Din.

"There were bombardments from helicopters and the use of heavy artillery against Irbil, Karkuk, and Salah al-Din all day Monday, and people are fleeing to the mountains of the north and to Rawanduz," the DPK said.

Dahuk, one of the largest cities in the autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan, is "held by the peshmergas," but the "population is fleeing to Turkey" because the city had come under heavy fire, it said.

The Iraqi Government announced Sunday that it had retaken Irbil and Dahuk from the rebels. Correspondents also invited by the government to visit Karkuk saw a city that appeared to be firmly in the control of loyalist troops.

An AFP correspondent on Sunday also saw rebels and citizens fleeing Irbil, which had for two weeks been considered the capital of "liberated Kurdistan."

Fighting Continues in Al-Basrah, Karkuk

LD0204120391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The situation in various Iraqi cities continues to be unstable in spite of the annoucement by the government forces that they are in control. According to IRNA, citing the 100 Iraqi citizens who took refuge in Iran today, by attacking a Republican Guards headquarters in a paper-manufacturing factory in the city of al-Basrah, the popular forces killed several Republican Guards and seized two T-72 tanks as well as a quantity of weapons.

According to these refugees, by intensifying their attacks against the people, the Republican Guards in al-Basrah Governorate have taken control of parts of the towns of al-Basrah, Zubayr, Abu-al-Khasib, and al-Tannumah, but the battle in other parts of these towns is still in progress.

The refugees added that the people's loss of control of the southern Iraqi cities occurred following Ba'thist Army and Republican Guard attacks. Refugees report their constant use of weapons such as napalm and phosphorous and incendiary bombs and the shelling of these towns.

According to one of the refugees, clashes continue between the popular and government forces in parts of Karkuk and Irbil. Government forces have failed to take total control of these towns. Irbil and Karkuk and the town of Klar, a district of Sulaymaniyah, have been shelled constantly by Iraqi fighter bombers and rocket attacks. In Klar in northern Iraq an Iraqi helicopter gunship was shot down by popular forces and its Sudanese pilot was taken prisoner.

One of the citizens from al-'Amarah who took refuge in Iran last night said that the popular forces have taken prisoner two high-ranking security officers and four Iraqi soldiers from the Republican Guard in the south of al-'Amarah. Fighting continues between the popular and Iraqi forces in some parts of Maysan Governorate.

Clashes Reported in Al-Tannumah

NC0204224391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1947 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] While revolutionary activities continue in the city of al-Basrah, and its districts and subdistricts, and in an attempt to silence the echo of our uprising, a group of gangsters from the regime has carried out a wretched operation to impose their authority on the rebellious region of al-Tannumah. Our heroic revolutionaries proceeded to confront the defeated gangsters with great determination and belief. They confronted the tanks of the regime belonging to the 26th Armored Brigade and 20th Brigade of the 5th Division. The result of the heroic revolutionaries' brave popular confrontation was to stop the progress of the abovementioned force, destroy two tanks, and take one unharmed whose crew joined the uprising forces along with their equipment.

The heroic confrontation also resulted in the death of a group of members of the aggressive forces whose bodies can now be seen littering the ground. The others all fled, terrorized by the anger of the holy uprising, after abandoning their weapons and emplacements.

Meanwhile, our people and the heroic revolutionaries from steadfast al-Tannumah chased all members of the 20th and 26th Armored Brigades who fled. They took control of their progressive locations, including arms, gear, and communications equipment.

We salute the heroic revolutionaries of al-Tannumah with honor and respect. We wish them further victories.

Masses Battle Regime Forces

NC0204220991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1947 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] This is another urgent report from al-Tannumah: Our revolutionary masses in southern al-Tannumah observed a force belonging to the regime consisting of two tanks, a 23-mm gun, mortars, RPG launchers, guns of [words indistinct], and a collection of light machine-guns numbering no less than 10.

They besieged this force and fired the weapons at their disposal. This prompted the forces of the regime to open fire on the heroic revolutionaries. However, 10 minutes later, the guns went quiet and the situation settled in favor of the revolutionaries.

We salute our heroic revolutionaries and our steadfast people of the uprising. We wish you further victories over coward Saddam's gangsters, God willing.

Opposition Radio Reports Clashes in Abu Al-Khasib

NC0304090591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0647 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] According to an urgent report we have received, a group of our rebellious popular forces attacked the regime's forces stationed on the premises of the local government's recreation ground and surrounding locations in Abu al-Khasib early this morning. They engaged those forces and silenced their fire after inflicting heavy personnel and weapons losses on them. This included the destruction of a redoubt housing a four-barrel machine gun [as heard], an 82-mm mortar, and a quantity of small-caliber machine guns. We wish to note that this attack was the second of its kind in the past 48 hours. The forces of the revolutionary uprising carried out an earlier assault on the same position in which they defeated the unit stationed there. The regime then replaced it with another unit that was also attacked by the uprising's forces.

Rebels Claim Control of Part of Al-Nasiriyah

NC0204215691 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1927 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] As the daily acts of resistance continue in the steadfast cities of the south, our heroic revolutionaries continue to tighten their control over a large part of the city of al-Nasiriyah. All the regime's attempts to enter the city have failed despite the continued military pressure and the violent shelling of the city's center and residential areas. Meanwhile, the regime's gangs continue to deny the [word indistinct] of the city of al-Nasiriyah and the district of Suq al-Shuyukh the required food and medical supplies. Our revolutionaries are in full control of the district of Suq al-Shuyukh. Through their heroic steadfastness and resilience, they have foiled all the attempts of the regime's henchmen to enter the district.

Dhi Qar Residents Praised for Facing 'Sedition'

NC0104145091 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Mar 91 p 5

[By Basim 'Atiyah]

[Text] Dhi Qar—Comrade Hasan 'Ali, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, has stressed that what the Governorate of Dhi Qar and others went through in terms of savage acts by the criminal demagogues affected all aspects of life, citizens' possessions, violated people's honor, and included the slaughter of innocent people in the streets. These acts were perpetrated by hateful people who disavowed the homeland and the principles of Islam and collaborated with sectarianists who came from outside the borders to destroy Iraq and its national unity.

In an exclusive interview with AL-THAWRAH, he said the demagogues' actions in the Governorate of Dhi Qar, which spared no one, are a new episode in the conspiracy series against the achievements of the glorious 17-30 July revolution and the historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

He added that it is not surprising to see the actions of these scoundrels reach this level of brutality and extreme hatred, having pledged their loyalty to the foreigner. Thus, they have disavowed their homeland and Arab identity. Their aim is to stir up sedition, disrupt national unity, and fragment Iraq into sectarian groups.

He said that the sons of the Governorate of Dhi Qar, who have a noble Arab history and who have adopted national and pan-Arab positions throughout the ages, have stood courageously in the face of the sedition. Thus, they expressed their loyalty to the homeland and leader by crushing the reactionary anti-Arab slogans raised by those treacherous criminals, who accepted humiliation for themselves in exchange for a handful of money, which is not worth one grain of pure Iraqi soil.

The comrade member of the party regional command praised the historic stance of the sons of the Governorate of Dhi Qar in confronting the sedition, crushing it forever, and adhering to national responsibility, which today more than ever needs sincere work to rebuild what was destroyed by the allies and the demagogues, who committed crimes throughout the governorate.

He concluded by praising the enthusiasm of the governorate's civil servants of varying responsibilities in carrying out their daily tasks with exceptional effort to rebuild, remove all traces of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and the barbaric actions, and increase services including street-cleaning, distribution of foodstuffs, and the extension of medical services. He pointed out leader President Saddam Husayn's great interest in this noble governorate, which is known for its traditions in all fields.

Army Cuts Off Kurdish Crossing Point to Syria

NC0104163391 Paris AFP in English 1621 GMT 01 Apr 91

[Text] On The Iraqi-Syrian Border, April 1 (AFP)—The Iraqi Army on Monday cut off the sole crossing point on the border here, which Kurdish insurgents had been using since they began their month-old uprising in Iraq.

The banks of the Tigris River, which mark the border between Syria and Iraq, came under heavy artillery fire from forces loyal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, an AFP correspondent observed. The fire fell on the point where the peshmergas, as Kurdish rebels are known, make the crossing on small motor boats.

The offensive by loyalist troops in a sector controlled by the Kurdish rebels since the beginning of the uprising blocked all access to Iraqi Kurdistan from Syria.

SAIRI, Barzani Agree To Continue Uprising

NC2903210191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1954 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] At a time when the sweeping popular uprising and resistance continue to be staged throughout the homeland, a delegation of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] led by His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Taqiy al-Mawla, official in charge of the SAIRI Executive Secretariat, conducted a tour of the liberated cities and areas in northern Iraq. During the tour, it met with Mas'ud Barzani [leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party] and [name indistinct]. In their talks, they agreed to make concerted efforts to ensure the continuation of the uprising sweeping the north and south until the Baghdad regime is toppled.

Our correspondent in northern Iraq reported that the SAIRI delegation visited the cities of Irbil and Shaqlawah in northern Iraq as well as the SAIRI headquarters in [place-name indistinct].

Relief Efforts, Cease-Fire Resolution Discussed

JN0104090191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Apr 91 pp 1, 5

[By staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin, who "has just returned from a week-long working visit to Iraq"]

[Text] Baghdad—Physical evidence of the American-led bombing of this city which lies between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is abundant. In every district of this city of four million people almost all buildings which took care of public services lie in ruins. In most neighbourhoods there is at least one bloc of civilian homes which was hit, proving that this war was not as precise bombing as claimed by the allied forces.

But the rebuilding of the city's and country's infrastructure to ensure that its citizens have the basic necessities as defined in the U.N. Human Rights Charter is an awesome task. To know the extent of the damage and what exactly is needed for rebuilding is a question which as of yet cannot be answered by Iraqi officials.

"Since there are no communications, it is rather difficult to know what is working and what is not," says Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under-secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who has been assigned the task of heading a fact-finding committee for coordination of relief supplies.

Trying to dampen the frustration of relief organisations which feel that duplication of certain relief supplies is stunting their efforts, Dr. al-Qaysi admits that duplication may very well take place because "no one knows what is needed and where."

The task of the Relief Supply Committee will be to come up with estimates of what has broken apart, where and to determine the needs of the population according to their location and resources available in these areas. The number of children in a given area would indicate how much "baby-milk formula" is needed in a certain district, to name just one example.

Shifting populations—a result of the war and internal unrest for which the war opened the door—will also have to be considered. The population of many Baghdad suburbs is reported to have risen since the unrest in the south began March 6. The number of Iraqis displaced by the occupation by American forces of 15 per cent of Iraq's total land area has also not been determined yet.

The government, which is readjusting to an opening up of the internal political system, cannot give the countless nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) that are in Iraq any figures as to what vaccines are needed and how much is needed in terms of water purification material. In the meantime temperatures in Baghdad and across Iraq are rising and the threat of spreading epidemics related to a break-down in hygienic conditions is growing by the day.

While any visitors have remarked that on the surface many parts of Baghdad seem to remain physically untouched by the allied bombings, looks can nevertheless be deceptive. In Baghdad this seems to be the case. No home has in fact remained untouched. No family unharmed, if not through death in the war then through malnutrition or the fear of disease; new-found poverty evidently threatens the Iraqi middle class. As one official puts it, "Iraq is a country of 18 million victims of war."

The economic standstill has brought about a new level of poverty, and getting the country back on the road means massive aid, which does not seem to be forthcoming. Furthermore, there is a lot of speculation as to whether Iraq will have any say over its own income and natural resources in the light of the ceasefire resolution that is being debated at the U.N.

Dr. al-Qaysi says he fears that the resolution would include clauses which would permanently prevent Iraq from asking for reparations from the allies for their use of excessive force against the country rendering it completely in a "pre-industrial revolution" state.

In a pessimistic note Dr. al-Qaysi told NGO delegates visiting Baghdad last week that he feared that Iraq's oil output, its price and actual use of the revenues would be entirely controlled by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. He added that the U.N. might even ban international courts from hearing Iraq's case if Baghdad wished to pursue the issue of excessive use of force by the allies.

The lack of total control of Iraq's own finances would only accelerate the boundless black markets already set up by side-walk vendors all over Baghdad. Lines of up to 200 people could be seen in front of bakeries, and meat is extremely difficult to find anywhere. The lack of water seems to be even more frightening than the shortage of

food. Many neighbourhoods smell of sewage and only a small minority of the population has constant water supply.

A city that used to use 9,000 megawatts of electricity has had to do with 700 megawatts for more than two months now.

But Iraqis know that without outside help survival may be a difficult question under the present circumstances. "The U.N. resolution which will set the terms of the ceasefire may be another Treaty of Versaille and there will be nothing we can do about it except sign it," Dr. al-Qaysi said.

Noting that Iraq was dependent on the outside world in order to repair its infrastructure, he said if the ceasefire resolution would be as bad as he feared Iraq would be in a state of "permanent human bondage."

In a final note, Dr. al-Qaysi told the visiting delegates that in his lifetime (he is 53) he did not expect that Iraq would recover even 10 per cent of the infrastructure capabilities that it has up to Jan. 17. "It's not possible to imagine what hapened here simply because it's unimaginable," he said.

What happened during the 42 days of war, said Dr. al-Qaysi, was the equivalent to a mafia killing. "The allies killed the victim and burned the corpse, so that no-one can prove there was a killing and the murderer goes free and the crime remains unsolved."

Papers Discuss, Comment on Nationwide Situation

AL-JUMHURIYAH on 'Bright Future'

NC0304082691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the conspiracy has been foiled, the head of the strife has been chopped off, and the conspiracy's agent symbols have collapsed, leaving Iraq dear to its people, secure and noble.

In an article today, the paper adds that the last chapter of the conspiracy was designed to fragment and divide Iraq, destroy its national unity, and repeat the Lebanese tragedy on Iraq's sacred land. The paper says that despite what happened and the crimes, sabotage, looting, robbery, and destruction of the cultural sites in lofty Iraq's cities carried out by criminal murderers and saboteurs, the will to struggle for what is right prevailed and the noble Iraqi people were stronger than the conspiracy and the evil sectarian partitionist strife.

The paper notes that the glorious sons of Iraq, who have a strong will and profound faith, rose up in the last few days to strike at the tools of the conspiracy, those cheap and rotten elements who became the means for evil and vice and tools used by parties that hate Iraq. Within days, the evil ones collapsed and dispersed and could do nothing but flee and suffer bitter, humiliating defeat.

The paper stresses that this was the natural outcome and the basic rule of life, because the inevitable fate of the enemies and traitors of the homeland is disgrace and humiliation. The homeland, however, will always remain lofty and united, guarded by its valiant sons who have pledged to sacrifice for the homeland, defend its security, and protect its honorable people.

The paper says that great Iraq passed a difficult test and overcame the major conspiracy with its legendary steadfastness, true faith, genuine principles, and the will of its zealous sons.

The paper concludes by saying that Iraq, which has buried the conspiracy, will also succeed in the reconstruction process and building a bright future for its people.

On Foreign Involvement in North

NC0104083691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that Iraqi authorities have seized additional documents confirming the involvement of many foreign parties in the saboteurs' infiltration into the northern region.

The newspaper today cites its correspondent in the northern region as saying that foreigners working with the saboteurs have been arrested.

It adds that during searches in the Karkuk and Irbil areas, the Armed Forces found weapons, equipment, and documents that confirm the involvement of more than one foreign party in the events of the region.

On 'Unfounded' BBC Report

NC3103122591 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Mar 91 pp 1, 6

[By AL-JUMHURIYAH team]

[Excerpt] Salam al-Shamma', AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent to the al-Basrah Governorate has refuted what was reported by the BBC in its evening broadcast the day before yesterday to the effect that "fighting broke out in the city of al-Basrah and some of its suburbs."

In an urgent report received at AL-JUMHURIYAH headquarters in Baghdad, the paper's correspondent said that the report aired by the BBC is unfounded. He said he toured the city and spoke with citizens in the suburbs who said that no shooting had been heard in days—to be exact, since the Armed Forces and the private security troops restored security, stability, and tranquility to al-Basrah and the entire southern region. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH on Karkuk 'Propaganda Uproar'

NC3103090991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH describes the purging of traitors from the city of Karkuk as a true victory for the people's national unity and a great step toward ridding every inch of northern Iraq of the filth of the rancorous agents.

In today's editorial, the paper says that purging the city is a step toward restoring security and stability to all cities and villages of the autonomous region. It is also an accomplishment that serves the rights, interests, security, and welfare of our Kurdish people.

The paper adds: As for the servile traitors who have sided with the foreigner; taken the path of treachery, crime, and rancor; tried to fan the flames of spite and grudges; and raised slogans of national division, they will meet the fate of all traitors and agents in the history of peoples and of those who betrayed their peoples and homelands and who gave up their sovereignty, rights, and interests to serve the schemes and designs of the foreigner.

The paper adds: After their infiltration into Karkuk, the lowly adventurers boasted for a long time and their imperialist, Zionist, and greedy masters made a massive and extensive propaganda uproar of it, and it was clear they thought Karkuk was a most important and prominent achievement. But the valiant Iraqis standing behind their unique leadership managed to silence all this unsubstantiated uproar and frustrated all the wagers and calculations of the imperialists and Zionists and of the powers that had designs. They have proved by courageous and capable deeds that they are able to uproot treason and sabotage and abort the schemes of the foreigner. At the same time, they rolled up their sleeves to remedy the effects of the aggression and to rebuild what was destroyed by the thirty-nation aggression.

On Postwar Job Responsibility

NC3103151191 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Mar 91 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Absolute Confidence in Present and Future"]

[Text] Now that Iraq and its great people have managed to remain steadfast in the face of the military aggression by 30 states, and after it overcame—through genuine national determination—the conspiratorial plan to destroy the country through subsequent aggressions and through premeditated, organized action from behind the borders, it has become necessary to formulate and draw up the goals and characteristics of the new phase which will constitute the basis of the required change and a starting point toward enriching and developing all political, social, economic, and spiritual aspects of life.

In his statement at the swearing-in in ceremony of the new cabinet, leader President Saddam Husayn referred to a number of political matters relevant to the duties of the new stage, including the need for every official to perform his duties in the state within his specialty. Moreover, jobs should be described in relation to the specific responsibilities assigned to them. In other words, no redundancy of responsibilities and duties should be allowed from now on.

The lessons of the previous stage have proven that the overlap of duties and responsibilities has resulted in weakening many jobs. The duties of the governor, the status and influence of the minister, and the jobs of the subdistrict administrative officer, the district administrative officer, the qadi, the police officer, and the army officer were weakened. Therefore, any overlap of duties and responsibilities is no longer acceptable at this stage, and everyone should work in accordance with the new formula, so that each can proceed with his own work without interfering with others' work in terms of practical application, vision, and trend.

There has also been a precise description of duties and difficulties of the new stage. The minister can no longer correct his mistakes with money—as was the case in the past—or cover up certain errors aided by the state's preoccupation with other matters, which helped to obscure certain technical mistakes. At this stage, the minister should show his real qualifications and carry out his duties under the new circumstances and on the basis of the idea: "We should work with what is available." But we should not imagine that we cannot add anything to what is available by mobilizing energies in a responsible and successful pioneering move in the right direction in order to achieve the goals within the shortest time and the least cost, and committing errors that diminish available energy and resources.

The difficulties facing Iraq today are not limited to the U.S. military aggression and the resulting comprehensive destruction of the Iraqi economic infrastructure and basic services directly related to the daily life of the Iraqi people. These difficulties are also created by some people's treachery beyond the borders. The sedition was part of the aggressive plan and its successive pages in terms of goals and intentions.

Just as the U.S. aggression was conducted to destroy Iraq, the saboteurs and their treacherous followers who infiltrated from beyond the borders also wanted to destroy Iraq and expose the Iraqi people's security, stability, and lives to grave dangers that would harm their present and future, and well as the present and future of Iraq—land, people, and history.

As our great people look forward to a fruitful effort to rebuild and guarantee the factors for continuing the march of construction and building, we have confidence in the present and the future; and the source of this deep confidence is the Iraqis' firm determination to eliminate all repercussions of the distress, release the people's

energy, mobilize all efforts and available resources in the right way and direction, and organize plans of action to continue construction and achieve prosperity in Iraq under democracy.

AL-QADISIYAH on Schwarzkopf's 'Secrets'

NC3103110391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says that General Norman Schwarzkopf's statements are more a revelation of specific facts concerning the Gulf war than a criticism of the roles of U.S. President George Bush and his secretary of defense.

In a commentary today, the paper describes the recent differences among the three officials as the manifestation of a monopolistic feeling and not a storm in a tea cup, as some radios had described.

AL-QADISIYAH says that Schwarzkopf begrudged Bush and Cheney their share and his ego as a general was rekindled to make him believe that the political victory and the material gains were the result of his efforts alone.

The paper says in ridicule that the reawakening of the ego of the commander of Desert Storm cost him the humiliation of having to apologize for what he said.

The paper says that the U.S. general may have had other calculations and matters in mind in his attack against Bush. The paper adds that he has sent a signal to the White House warning it that he can reveal further secrets about the aggression against Iraq and many of the scandals of the deal.

The paper says that the most important facts that Bush fears Schwarzkopf would expose concern the role of some parties that the United States had taken great pains to conceal, such as the role of Israel in the operations against Iraq.

Citizens Urged To Ration Electricity

NC3103153291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Dear citizens: Help expand the distribution of power to residential areas by rationing the use of electricity in the present phase [passage indistinct] the Zionist-Atlantic enemy targeted 60 percent of our country's power generating capacity. [passage indistinct]

Dear citizens, the use of fluorescent lights provides better lighting and contributes to the rationing of power and to expanding the field of its distribution.

Arab League Best Framework To Address Arab Issues

[Signed] Staff major general, the director of general conscription

NC3103163591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] The Arab League Council has concluded its meetings held in Cairo on the level of representatives. The council has decided to continue contacts to set a date [words indistinct]. As'ad al-As'ad, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, has been charged with negotiating with the Arab foreign ministers to set a date for the council meeting. Jordan's representative at the Arab League presented this proposal during yesterday's meeting. The proposal gained the support of all members who voted in favor. No Arab country objected to the proposal.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, Iraq's representative to the Arab League Council meeting and head of the Arab Desk at the Foreign Ministry, stated that the session was useful, necessary, and a positive step for continuing joint Arab action. He added that Iraq is in constant touch with all its Arab brothers. He noted that the common spirit that prevailed in the meeting on the need to overcome the ordeal and learn the lessons of the past experience is an indication of the concern of all parties and their conviction that the Arab League is the best framework to address all Arab issues.

Students Asked To Report to Conscription Centers

NC0204173591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The General Conscription Department has issued a statement calling on conscripts inside and outside the country who were born in 1973, the second batch, to report to their conscription centers during the period 6-12 April 1991 in order to perform the compulsory service.

Following is the text of the statement:

Statement issued by the General Conscription Department:

1. In addition to our statement of 31 December 1990, the General Conscription Department calls on conscripts inside and outside the country who were born in 1973, the second batch, to report to their conscription centers or to the nearest ones if their centers are damaged during the period 6-12 April 1991.

2. This statement applies to the following:

A. The remaining conscripts from the first batch who were born in 1973 and who are in the first secondary class and below, and also those not in the primary [as heard] schools and those whose ties with these schools are severed for whatever reason.

B. Second secondary class students, also students who are not attending classes at any level and those whose excuses are no longer valid.

3. Legal measures shall be taken against those who do not report during the specified period.

Shamir May Accept 'Functional Linkage'

TA0304101891 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Apr 91 pp 1, 13

[Report by Roni Shaqed, Tzvi Singer, and Bina Barzel]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Americans have recently broached a new idea in a bid to promote the peace process: an Israeli-Jordanian condominium in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. According to this idea, which the United States has already presented to Shamir, Jordan will be in charge of the Arab residents of the territories, while Israel will be responsible for the Jewish settlers.

Israeli sources reacted yesterday by saying that Shamir will not adopt any idea that entails giving up any part of Judaea, Samaria, or the Gaza Strip. At the most, he may accept a functional linkage between the Arab residents and Jordan, provided that Israel retains control over these areas. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Egypt-Syria-Saudi 'Axis,' Iraq

TA0204175091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dani Levi in 'En Hemed near Jerusalem on 2 April—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Levi] Mr. Prime Minister, in the wake of the meeting between the presidents of Egypt and Syria, do you believe that an Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi axis will emerge that will bring about the promotion of a peace process in our region?

[Shamir] I cannot make predictions or prophecies. If the issue at stake is a peace process, then it can only be conducted with us seeing that the issue is peace with us. Therefore, they must first talk to us and only then will we know whether we are headed toward a peace process or not.

[Levi] Sir, how do you perceive Egypt's role? Do you think Egypt will manage to persuade Syria to soften its position?

[Shamir] In my opinion, if Egypt wants to play an active and serious part in leading a move toward peace in the Middle East it can succeed, either with or without Syria. We are only waiting for Egypt to make such a decision. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 2 April reports that in separate meetings today with visiting U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg and Congressman Les Aspin, Shamir "expressed his concern that Saddam Husayn remains in power following the victory of the United States and the coalition. Saddam is slaughtering his people, but nobody cares. The fact that he remains in power is immoral and a bad example for the inhabitants of the region who infer from it that nothing has really changed although the tyrant was defeated."

[Shamir also noted that "in the aftermath of the war, the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia may have some thoughts about possible coexistence with Israel, but this requires that the United States explicitly orient them in such a direction. Were the United States to decide on how to go about creating a new Middle East and solving all the problems of the conflict, this would constitute a positive step on the path to peace.

["Referring to the recent U.S. criticism, Shamir told Lautenberg that Israel maintains a good and close dialogue with the U.S. Administration which he hopes will bear fruit."]

Shamir Seeking 'Non-PLO' Negotiating Partner

AU3003192791 Paris AFP in English 1905 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Paris, March 30 (AFP)—Israel needs outside help, perhaps from Arab countries, to find a Palestinian negotiating partner which is not the PLO, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in an interview to be published here Sunday [31 March].

"We have to find a Palestinian negotiating partner. A non-Israeli initiative, from the Arabs for example, might be best. They must play their role and find Palestinians other than the PLO who could serve as a negotiating partner," Mr. Shamir told the JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE newspaper.

Israel needed an "important group of Palestinians" other than the Palestine Liberation Organisation "which would accept the fact of Israel's existence and accept, for the moment, a provisional Israeli-Palestinian solution" along the lines of the Camp David agreement with Egypt, the Israeli premier said.

"The United States or the European countries which are interested in peace in the region must also create, or help to create, this Palestinian core group which may emerge," he added.

Mr. Shamir suggested "a kind of cooperation, of coexistence with the state of Israel, for a while, and then, if this is seen to work, we could start negotiations between the Palestinians and the state of Israel to find a permanent solution, I mean settling the status of the disputed territories."

"By terror", he warned, "you never settle anything."

Again rejecting the principle of an exchange of "territory for peace" which, he said, would involved "unrealistic ideological concessions," Mr. Shamir said he thought Syria had not "abandoned its negative attitude."

However in Saudi Arabia there were now "voices of important Saudis who consider that Israel is not a negative factor for Saudi Arabia," he added.

Palestinian Leaders on Elections in Territories

TA0204141191 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 1 Apr 91 pp 1, 10

[Report by Khalid Abu-'Akr]

[Text] Talk of elections in the occupied territories reappeared this week, with a slightly different twist. The Palestinians supporting the notion are talking this time not of elections of delegations to peace negotiations, but elections to fill 180 Palestine National Council seats.

In addition, Palestinians favoring the idea are citing the need for Palestinians in the occupied territories to take the initiative in the peace process rather than sitting back and waiting to react to ideas brought from abroad.

The discussion on the merits of the proposal has tended toward two poles: one side believes that the idea of elections should be developed in such a way that the Palestinians will seize the initiative and thereby strengthen their position in coming negotiations. The other side believes that although the exercise of democracy is a principle to be maintained, the prevailing conditions of the occupation are however not conducive for elections of local Palestinians to seats in the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament in exile.

Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni supports the notion and has said that electing Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to serve in the Palestinian parliament would only enhance the Palestinian peace initiative announced in November 1988 in Algiers. "The world is talking about many things, a delegation to negotiations, elections, etc.... Instead of waiting for others to formulate an elections plan, and for unfavorable conditions to be placed upon us, we should initiate the process by suggesting an elections process that will suit our needs," said al-Husayni.

Al-Husayni believes that the Palestinians should convene the PNC and work within the established rules of order to elect local delegates. "We have the right to have elections in the occupied territories, to elect our representatives in the PNC and if Israel wants to ban us it will have to use force to stop us," al-Husayni added.

But Dr. Riyad al-Maliki professor of engineering at Bi'r Zayt University, believes it is too early to discuss elections. "The issue is not allowing or not allowing us to hold elections. The essential problem is that we are under occupation, and the challenges our people are facing are more important than holding elections at this particular time," he said.

Holding elections, al-Maliki says, is a "national demand," adding that "we are always calling for elections to the PNC, but at the proper time." Al-Maliki pointed out that there should be a political program which fits the nature of this phase, allowing us to face the challenges present, particularly after the Gulf war and the attempts to impose an American solution on the Arab-Israeli conflict. "If PNC elections were to be included in this political program, then no one would disagree," he added.

Ghassan al-Khatib, a Bi'r Zayt University lecturer on cultural studies, said that he supports the expansion and strengthening of democracy within the institutions of the PLO and inside the occupied territories. "The form which such a process should take needs careful study, such as the possibility of holding PNC elections under occupation and the connection and the relationship between the elected members in the occupied territories and those abroad," he said.

Al-Khatib said that in principle he supports elections, but feels the issues should be thorougly discussed and studied carefully.

Army Official Interviewed on Gaza Elections

TA3103173691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Interview with Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by correspondent in the territories Arye Gus; on 31 March, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gus] Major General Rothschild , Gaza Strip notables have been talking among themselves about the possibility of organizing or preparing municipal elections. What is the position of the Civil Administration of the Israeli Government on the subject?

[Rothschild] First, I am glad that people in Gaza—and I believe it also heppens in other locations—are ready to begin managing some of the systems which will eventually bring prosperity to the citizens in Gaza, as well as Samaria and Judaea. At the moment we are not speaking of elections. I, for one, do not know of anything the Civil Administration is involved in which is linked to elections in the Gaza Municipality. If residents of Gaza are ready to assume the responsibility—with no political links, rather on a personal basis—for the livelihood of and show concern for the Gaza civilians, I would be very happy about it.

[Gus] A delegation of three Gaza notables left for Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Among other things, it was reported that they are going to discuss the issue of elections. Were you told about this?

[Rothschild] I am not responsible for what they report in Gaza. A delegation has left, and its aim, as it was reported to us, is to raise funds for economic projects such as construction, industry, and other issues in Gaza. These projects will, eventually, improve the quality of life for the Gaza civilians. I have no objection to that. I even believe this is a correct process. This delegation, as well as any delegation that leaves the country, knows very well that it is not allowed to meet political elements

linked with the PLO, because we are not encouraging its involvement in what happens in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Gus] Does the fact that the delegation left directly for Saudi Arabia to collect funds indicate a shift in the Saudi position to aid the PLO or to funnel money to the territories?

[Rothschild] I do not know that the delegation went to Saudi Arabia. To the best of my knowledge, it went to Egypt to meet there with Saudi elements. As for your question, we heard the decision the Gulf Cooperation Council has made, which unequivocally states that it will not give any money to the PLO. On the other hand, it is willing to aid the residents of the territories, and it seems to me that this is the right direction to help them out of their distress.

Terrorists Killed in Clash in South Lebanon

TA0304091891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Two terrorists were killed in a clash with the South Lebanese Army [SLA] in southern Lebanon. The SLA unit suffered no casualties. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that, in the brief encounter which ensued when an SLA unit spotted a terrorist squad in the western sector of the security zone, the two terrorists were killed.

Two Killed in Territories During 29-30 Mar Curfew

TA3103144591 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Mar 91 p 3

[Pool report]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Since early Friday morning [29 March] some 1.3 million Palestinians were under curfew in the territories. Curfews were not imposed only on the cities of Qalqilyah, Jericho, Bethlehem, and Bayt Jala, but yesterday [30 March] these locations observed a "self-imposed curfew"—a general strike called for by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

The general curfew was observed in contained tension, during which several demonstrations and marches were held and violent incidents occurred. In several villages in the area of Qalqilyah—Kafr Jammal, Jayyus, and Kafr Thulth—marches marking Land Day were staged Friday. Flags were hoisted and masked men made political speeches. The Army was not seen in the villages.

Haydar Tawfiq Lahlah (32), a resident of the village of 'Arrabah in the Janin District was murdered Friday night after being suspected of collaboration. Fatah's Black Panther Organization assumed responsibility for the murder. He was abducted from his home on Friday evening, and around midnight his body was found near his house with knife wounds.

The body of 'Aziz 'Abd-al-Qadir (20) of the village of Barta'a al-Sharqiyah, was found hanging in a tree near his village yesterday. He was not a known collaborator.

A homemade explosive charge was thrown at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip yesterday evening. The charge missed the patrol, and exploded, causing no casualties.

This was the only disturbance registered in the otherwise quiet Gaza Strip. Arab sources reported that in Rafah, al-Shati' and the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood of Gaza youths who attempted to violate the curfew were dispersed by a reinforced IDF unit. The sources claimed that the security forces used the general curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip to detain dozens of youngsters who were suspected of causing disturbances. Farmers and essential workers were the only ones allowed to leave their homes, and schools have been closed until Monday [1 April].

Kurdish Leader Urges Low Profile in Iraq Events

TA0304174491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] In the view of the man regarded as the foreign minister of the Kurdish rebels in Iraq, Dr. 'Umar Shaykh (Mus), Israel should not become involved militarily in the Kurdish uprising in northern Iraq. Speaking to reporter Ya'aqov Rosenberg from his current place of exile in Stockholm, he said that Israel should continue to maintain a low profile and leave it to the rest of the international community to support the rebels. But he also drew an interesting historical parallel.

[Begin recording] [(Mus)] It is a very cynical situation, and I can compare it with the uprising in Warsaw during the Second World War, when the Red Army stayed at the doors of Warsaw while the people of Warsaw were being slaughtered. And here we have... [changes thought] The United States and the allies were inviting the Iraqi people to rise and overthrow the Iraqi regime and once they have done that, they have left them in the ditch, more or less.

[Rosenberg] Dr. Shaykh (Mus) says the Kurdish civilians need food, medicine, and the rebels need military aid. If the Iraqis are prevented from using their aircraft, the exiled leader says, Kurdish rebels can stop the Republican Guards; but he advises Israel not to intervene militarily in Kurdistan.

[(Mus)] Well as far as Israel is concerned, I have not seen their support yet. And I think it is better for you and for the Kurdish people as well to keep your low profile as far as this issue is concerned. Your sympathy and support internationally, politically, and diplomatically is appreciated very much. I do not think that it would serve your own interests and even the Kurds' interests if you get involved in this conflict now.

[Rosenberg] Dr. Shaykh (Mus) says he is optimistic regarding the talks today in Washington between Bush Administration officials and the rebels. The Kurdish leader says he hopes this will be the beginning of badly needed political and humanitarian aid from the United States. [end recording]

AL-FAJR Editorials Discuss Gulf Situation

Shamir's Terms for Talks Rejected

TA020416279l Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 1 Apr 91 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Shamir's Conditions and the Policy of Wasting Time"]

[Text] When Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rules out any role for the PLO so that his government would able—according to his latest statement in the French LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE paper—to negotiate with the Palestinians, he is in fact circumventing international legitimacy on which the Palestinian cause is based. He is also rejecting the principle of negotiations without preconditions with our Palestinian people for achieving peace based on this legitimacy.

From the outset of the Palestinian problem and its evolution over many decades and generations, the resolutions on negotiations approved by the United Nations did not place any conditions on the "form" of the Palestinian partner, nor did these resolutions interfere in the Palestinian people's decision regarding their leadership and legitimate representatives. Evidently, the resolutions also did not place any conditions on the form of the Israeli Government nor interfere in its decisions. Then, why should we alone submit to criteria that are beyond our control? Does this placing of conditions not mean direct repudiation of the notions and principles of democracy on which the U.S.-European game is based in the first place?

Among his conditions Shamir also called for an Arab initiative that would be easier for him to deal with. If he really wished to deal, there is before him the clear Palestinian initiative of 1988. This initiative is unambiguously grounded on a broad Arab basis that extends to all the Arab states without exception. At the same time it is also grounded in a broad international basis as the cohesive outcome of UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. Why does Shamir not accept this Palestinian peace initiative, without any preconditions, and enter into dialogue, discussions, and negotiations aimed at achieving peace for the two peoples and the two states—peace for the Palestinian people, at the side of the Israeli people, in the states of Palestine and Israel?

The PLO has affirmed its unequivocal credibility on this important matter and is keen on reiterating it daily through the various changes and developments in the region and the world. Therefore, we find in the placing of conditions by Israel's prime minister a mere revival of his old tactic of wasting time, phase by phase, on a road that will neither take him nor any of us to the desired peace.

Rulers Assailed for Freezing PLO Aid

TA020415029l Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 31 Mar 91 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "You Will Not Buy Us With Your Dollars!"]

[Text] The decision adopted last night by the Gulf Cooperation Council to freeze financial aid to the PLO and Jordan is a new link in the chain of conspiracy by some Arab regimes against the PLO and the Palestinian people with the aim of subjugating these people and forcing them to draw up their positions in accordance with U.S. criteria.

During their militant march, the Palestinian people have rejected and will always reject all attempts that seek to buy their political positions and draw their foreign policy with dollars. If there are calculations of profit and loss in the assessment of political positions that have a tactical nature, there is no room in the PLO for this sort of commercial calculation with regard to principled strategic positions.

Since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, the PLO put forward formulas that sought to find an Arab solution to this crisis and to contain it within an Arab framework. Some of the dealers, however, prevented this and insisted on dragging this crisis to the stage of explosion, as a service to their own interests and those of their American masters.

The position of the PLO on the crisis was an expression of its sincerity and commitment to its principles, slogans, and programs and an affirmation of its strong role in the Arab arena. If anyone thought for a moment that the PLO would stand in the U.S. trench against Iraq and the Iraqi people for the sake of a handful of dollars, he is naive at best. And if anyone imagined for a moment that he would see a Palestinian fighter alongside a U.S. Marine fighting an Arab soldier and an Arab people, he is stupid at best.

Our Palestinian people, led by the PLO and their leader, Brother Yasir 'Arafat, affirm the soundness of and pride in their political position, proclaiming to the world that their principles are neither for sale nor up for negotiation. Our Palestinian people, who have faced all kinds of sieges and all forms of conspiracies that sought to annihilate them morally and materially, today are more than ever able to be steadfast and to meet any challenge. Those who preferred to work as hirelings of the U.S. master against their own people will discover that their treachery will soon bring dire results for them.

Warning Against Undermining PLO

TA0204144191 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 30 Mar 91 p 1

[Editorial: "A Decisive Response to All the Conspiracies"]

[Text] The request made yesterday by Laurent Fabius, president of the French National Assembly, for the Palestinians of the occupied territories to shoulder their responsibilities in solving the Palestinian problem, without having mentioned the PLO, places a large question mark before this odd stance.

What is puzzling is that this request by the French official came less than 48 hours after the meeting he held with a number of Palestinian notables from the territories. These notables stressed to him clearly that they will never enter into any negotiations on the Palestinian problem and that the PLO is the only party authorized to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people.

This French stance is in line with Western and even Arab statements that have appeared lately, seeking to wager on negotiating with the Palestinians inside the territories as a substitute for the PLO, under embellished and false slogans.

Apparently these parties have not yet realized that over the years the masses of the occupied territories have been the arbiters and have given a decisive response to all the conspiracies that have sought to undermine the PLO and its sole representation of the Palestinian people.

The nature of the present phase requires us to once again make the world listen to the voice of our people, affirming their rally around the PLO as their representative, leader, and spokesman. We should act to affirm and reinforce this fact, in form and content, in a way that would eliminate any possibility of creating any crack for penetration by the conspirators against our cause.

This is the only approach that can foil all conspiracies and silence all the voices of discord.

Shamir to London, Levi to Paris in Mid-April

TA0104083791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Apr 91 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will leave for London in mid-April, where he will hold political talks with East and West European heads of state. The prime minister has been invited to London to attend the inauguration ceremony of the new European Bank, set up to provide aid to East European countries. Shamir has decided to take advantage of the invitation to hold political talks with British Prime Minister John Major and French President Francois Mitterrand. In a personal letter Shamir received a few days ago from the French president, Mitterrand expressed his wish to meet with the prime minister during the event.

Heads of states from East Europe, including Romanian President Ion Iliescu, and senior leaders of the EC countries will attend the London ceremony.

It was learned yesterday that Deputy Prime Minister David Levi intends to leave for Paris on 18 April to attend an evening of solidarity with Israel. Levi has also been invited to meet with President Mitterrand while in Paris.

Paper Claims King Husayn To Visit Saudi Arabia

NC0204101991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0841 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] London, 2 Apr (MENA)—AL-HAYAH today cited a source it described as an informed diplomat as saying that King Husayn of Jordan will visit Saudi Arabia in the near future to perform the minor pilgrimage in holy Mecca and visit the Prophet's tomb in Medina.

The source added that very high-level inter-Arab contacts are taking place to improve inter-Arab relations, which deteriorated as a result of the Gulf crisis. The source noted that King Husayn's visit to Damascus last week and President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Cairo, which ended yesterday, came within this context.

Kuwaitis Deny Violations Against Palestinians

NC0204133491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Amman, 2 Apr (WAKH)—The Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman has refuted the current unjust media campaign by some biased quarters against Kuwait and its people regarding alleged violations against Jordanian and Palestinian nationals in Kuwait.

In a statement issued in Amman today, the embassy said that this unjust media campaign is merely an excuse designed to cover up the great failure and crushing defeat which hurt all those who supported the tyrannical Iraqi aggression, its occupation of Kuwait, and the persecution of its people.

The statement adds that numerous reports have demonstrated the deceitfulness of these allegations and says that the best proof that these allegations are groundless is the telegram sent by the Middle East Watch organization, which monitors human rights issues in the Middle East, to the PLO asserting that there have been no violations against Palestinian nationals residing in Kuwait.

The statement says that Kuwait, acting in its own interests and protecting its sovereignty just like any other country in the world, will not be lenient with all those who tried to harm its dignity, particularly those who collaborated with the tyrannical Iraqi occupation forces. It will pursue those mercenaries regardless of their nationality.

The statement affirms that Kuwait welcomes all honorable Arabs on its territory. However, those who collaborated with the occupier will have no room on Kuwait's good territory regardless of their nationality.

The statement announced: Our Palestinian and Jordanian guests and all other honorable residents are dear brothers who enjoy the same care provided for their Kuwaiti brothers on Kuwait's good land. They are not hostages and can leave whenever they want. Indeed, Kuwait is willing to facilitate their return if they so wish.

The statement emphasized that Kuwait has always adhered to justice, fairness, and human rights in its dealings with all those who live on its territory.

It noted that these unjust media campaigns will not harm Kuwait and its steadfast people but, on the contrary, will enhance their faith just as the earlier rabid media campaigns against Kuwait failed together with the crushing defeat of the invading Iraqi regime.

The statement exhorts "our brothers, the sons of the Palestinian people and all other honorable people, both residents in Kuwait and abroad, not to listen to these allegations."

Jordanians, PLO React to GCC Aid Cut

JN0104114591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Apr 91 p 3

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—Jordan officially remained silent Sunday [31 March] on the decision by the Gulf states to suspend financial assistance to the Kingdom while the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) harshly criticised the move.

Jordanian officials refused to comment on the statements by Gulf Cooperation Council 'Abdallah Bisharah but privately they say the move was not a surprise and would not affect the country greatly.

Officials conceded that relations with the Gulf states were tainted with mistrust but do not expect the Gulf states to maintain such a posture for a very long time and feel confident that at least for this year the country has received enough emergency assistance to cope with the cut in Gulf aid.

Parliamentarian and former minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti said the GCC statement was "nothing new" and that the Gulf states had already begun "decreasing their financial aid to Jordan when the Kingdom initiated its democratic process...It is a penalty for democratisation in the country."

The GCC—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates—said it was suspending aid to Jordan and the PLO because they did not support the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

"No forgiveness, no forgetting," Mr. Bisharah, a Kuwaiti, said in announcing the halt in aid. The announcement was only a reaffirmation of an earlier unannounced decision to suspend aid. Jordan and the PLO have not received any assistance from the Gulf states since the August 2 invasion of Kuwait for their sympathetic position towards Iraq in the crisis.

PLO official Muhammad Milhim said Sunday the "Palestinian struggle is not for sale" and that the "timing of Mr. Bisharah's statement was counter-productive at a

time when Arab League representatives are meeting in Cairo to try to heal rifts and repair strained relations caused by the crisis."

The crisis caused a deep schism in the Arab World between the anti-Iraq camp, led by the Gulf states, Egypt and Syria, and those opposed to the allied war—Jordan, PLO, Sudan and Yemen.

"It is a time for reconciliation and reconsideration of all our positions and not a time for such statements...we have to think differently and stop talking about money and funds and concetrate on the real dangers," Mr. Milhim said.

Mr. Bisharah, referring to the position of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during the crisis, said: "Mr. 'Arafat took a very reckless course of action and will have to bear the consequences."

Mr. 'Arafat, analysts argue, could not take an anti-Iraq or a clear-cut pro-Kuwait stand because he would have risked his political career in light of Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn's popularity among the Palestinians.

"The PLO position was correct politically—against occupation of territory by force and against denying the Kuwaiti people their right to self-determination—but we could not highlight the official position for political reasons," said Palestine National Council (PNC) member As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman.

"Palestinians sided with Iraq because it was against the U.S. 'Arafat and the leadership would have lost a great deal if they had taken a position contrary to the mood of the masses. This is politics," he added.

The GCC secretary-general refused to disclose the amount of aid suspended but the GCC states have long been the PLO's main financial backers and have also provided millions of dollars to Jordan as a frontline state with Israel.

Jordan, officially neutral, but publicly sympathetic towards Iraq and against the allied war, will lose an estimated $400 to $500 million annually, Jordanian sources said.

According to PLO officials, of the $1.5 billion in Arab contributions the PLO has received since 1979, $1 billion came from the Gulf states, but Mr. Milhim described the amount as "peanuts" compared to what the Gulf states paid for the war.

"Since the start of the revolution, the Gulf states have given the PLO peanuts compared to the money they poured into the war treasury to destroy both Iraq and Kuwait...," Mr. Milhim said. He said the PLO was in a "very very difficult" financial position, but "thanks to increased contributions to UNRWA (U.N. Relief and Works Agency) by the European Community and Japan, obligations to Palestinian refugee camps continue to be met."

Jordanian economist Fahd al-Fanik, echoing the view of officials and average Jordanians, said the Gulf states would not punish Jordan indefinitely.

"When emotions calm down, the Gulf states will realise that it is in their best interest and security to have a strong and stable Jordan....It will take time," Mr. al-Fanik told the Jordan Times.

Jordan, which has a staggering $8 billion foreign debt, has lost, according to U.N. estimates, 30 per cent of its gross national product in 1990 and will lose 50 per cent in 1991 in the form of exports, higher oil prices, expatriate remittances, transit charges.

But economists say emergency soft loans and grants from the European Community and Japan, totalling about $900 million, will cushion the economic blow this year, but warn that the country will have to take harsh solutions to cope with the next few years.

A front page commentary in Al-Ra'y Arabic daily, accusing the Gulf leaders of having a "loan shark mentality," said the Gulf states "are wrong; they are mistaken because they are condescending,... blind to the fact, ignorant of people's qualities and with nothing on their minds except money, money, money...."

"Jordan, which knows where it stood yesterday, where it stands today and where it will stand tomorrow, does not need the aid of brothers. Not because Jordan is a rich and strong country....., but because its stands emanate from the depth of its national commitment which it will not change or abandon," the commentary, signed by the editor, said.

Sarcastically thanking the Gulf states for their assistance, Al-Ra'y said: "Take your money Gulf brethren and may God keep you happy with your money...so you will be able to fund your patrons in Washington and London with your billions of dollars."

Paper Criticizes GCC Secretary General

JN0304115691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Myopia Won't Do"]

[Text] Mr. 'Abdallah Bisharah, the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) secretary general seems to be a confused man these days. One day he says the (GCC) has decided to cut financial aid to Jordan and the PLO, and the next he says there has been no such decision. Just what is his bottom line? Are Mr. Bisharah and his colleagues in the GCC still determined to punish Jordan and the PLO, i.e. the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples, for their sympathy towards their Iraqi brothers during the Gulf crisis and the war that followed? Is it possible that some Arabs can be so vengeful against other Arabs, even when foreigners are trying to forgive and forget? It was unfortunate that Iraq, in the minds of many Arabs the champion of Arab nationalism, had to

invade Kuwait. For though every Arab would love to see the Arab Nation united, not least the Kuwaitis themselves, no Arab, Jordanian or Palestinian approved of the Iraqi occupation and annexation of Kuwait. Jordan has said time and again it was no apologist for Iraq. Throughout the crisis we constantly called for a peaceful solution to the problem, insisted on the unacceptability of foreign intervention in internal Arab affairs, even though we made it clear that the Kuwaiti government's intransigent stand prior to Aug. 2 contributed greatly to the calamity that followed. Jordan, right from the beginning, advocated an Arab solution. And we think we have been proven right. The escalation of the conflict and its internationalisation has resulted in the destruction of both Iraq and Kuwait and in opening deep wounds in the Arab body and soul that will take a long time to heal.

Jordan's was a principled stand. We were never for sale. And we think we always deserved Arab aid for any number of reasons. For one thing Jordan was and still is the foremost Arab confrontation state with Israel; for another, it housed most of the Palestinian refugees; moreover, our brothers in the Gulf may remember that Jordanians and Palestinians provided the Gulf states with most of the skilled labour that built their infrastructure in the past three decades. Jordan even did more. It trained and managed the Gulf armed forces and fought on their side in their local wars. If there was any animosity in the hearts of Palestinians or Jordanians towards their fellow Gulf Arabs, it must have come about as a result of the attitude of people like Mr. Bisharah who always gave aid with much high-handedness. And if Mr. Bisharah and his associates in the GCC are going to persist in their vengeance they will only encounter more animosity and resentment. The secretary general must by now know that Palestinians and Jordanians are among the Arabs' most resourceful people. They are well capable of readjusting and managing without "brother Arab" handouts. Mr. Bisharah is well advised to look deeper into and to reflect more on not only the resentment that surfaced during the Gulf crisis but on its causes as well. But judging from his and his colleagues' rhetoric, it seems they cannot see beyond their nose.

Iraqi Official in Amman To Coordinate Relief Work

JN0104120691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—An Iraqi official has arrived in Amman for talks on the channelling of relief supplies to the victims of the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq, and to coordinate work among humanitarian organisations taking charge of the process of sending the supplies to Iraq.

The official is Dr. Khalid 'Abd-al-Hamid from the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, who said he was spending several days in Jordan for talks with the concerned officials.

In a statement upon arrival 'Abd-al-Hamid said that consultations would be mainly with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) which has been undertaking the main task of forwarding the relief supplies received from various countries.

'Abd-al-Hamid said he would take part in a conference, to be held in Geneva, to coordinate the work of relief organisations sending help to Iraq.

At the same time efforts at the popular and official levels are contributing to continuing sending relief supplies to Iraqi victims of war.

A statement Sunday [31 March] said that workers at the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) had sent a convoy of trucks laden with medicine and food supplies to Iraq.

Head of the Workers Union Ahmad al-Haddad who is just back from a tour of devastated Iraqi regions, said that the Iraqis are in great need of assistance.

Merchants Allowed To Export Food to Iraq

NC0204154691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned from Ministry of Industry and Trade sources that private sector merchants have been permitted as of yesterday to export foodstuff to Iraq.

This decision is in compliance with the recent Security Council resolution allowing the export of food and medicine to Iraq.

As for medicine, Jordan had permitted its export prior to this decision.

Saudi Airspace Still Closed to RJ Flights

NC0204155791 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 2 Apr 91 p 15

[Text] Amman—Royal Jordanian [RJ] aircraft are still having to use Syrian, Turkish, Iranian, and Pakistani airspace while en route to the Far East and Arabian Gulf states, rather than their normal route over Saudi Arabia. This is because the Saudi airspace has not yet been opened for our national airline.

A responsible source at Royal Jordanian expressed hope that Saudi airspace would be reopened as usual for our national airline in the coming few days.

The source added that Royal Jordanian had received the Saudi authorities' permission to fly a weekly flight to Jeddah each Tuesday until the end of April.

The Saudi authorities had closed Saudi airspace to all flights a few days before the war. After the war, however, the authorities allowed all foreign and some Arab airlines to use Saudi airspace as usual."

Religious Leader: Hostage Issue at 'Standstill'

NC0204190591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] A senior pro-Iran Lebanese Muslim fundamentalist leader today stated that despite the flurry of diplomatic activity and reports on the imminent release of the 12 Westerners held in Lebanon, the issue is now at standstill.

There has been no reaction by the pro-Iran sources to Tehran's release of British businessman Roger Cooper today, more than five years after having been imprisoned on charges of espionage. Fundamentalists earlier said that Cooper's fate has nothing to do with the Westerners being held in Lebanon.

The fundamentalist leader told REUTER on conditions of anonymity that despite the uproar stirred by the Western diplomats and the press, the hostage issue is at a standstill.

The fundamentalist leader was asked about reports attributed to several pro-Syrian sources in Beirut that the release of the Western hostages will take place soon. He said: Syria is serious in its endeavors to seek the release of the hostages. Through such speculations, Syria hopes to bring pressure on Iran to gain the release of the captives.

Asked if he thinks this will be successful, he said with a smile: No.

Last week, a Syrian source said that the Western hostage issue was over and that was is only a matter of time before the situation was entirely resolved. He added that all parties involved—Syria, Iran, and Hizballah—were working to put an end to this matter as soon as possible.

In exchange for the release of the hostages, the kidnappers have demanded that hundreds of Arab prisoners from Israeli prisons be freed, including Hizballah clergyman Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, who was kidnapped by Israeli commandos from his village in southern Lebanon in 1989. Israel has said that it is ready to consider exchanging Shaykh 'Ubayd with the Western captives on the condition that six missing Israeli military officials are included in the deal.

It is believed that most of the 12 Westerners missing in Lebanon are held by pro-Iran groups that are connected to Hizballah, which denies having anything to do with hostage-taking. Six Americans, three British, two Germans, and an Italian are being held.

Diplomats in Beirut last month said the release of the captives could take place soon due to the rapprochement in the wake of the Gulf war between Washington and London on one hand and their former foes Syria and Iran on the other.

But the pro-Iran source has said there is no movement in Iranian-U.S. relations and Tehran has a firm policy not to give up anything to the Americans.

An Italian diplomat in Damascus on Sunday [31 March] stated that the Iranian leaders had told Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis that the release of the hostages would take place soon.

The fundamentalist leader said: The Iranians are extremely patient politicians. They take their time when it comes to a change of policies or when they go back on a decision such as the hostage issue.

Hizballah Official Views Resistance, 'Ubayd Issues

NC0304100191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] His Eminence al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi has said that the al-Ta'if agreement and the government will not be able to sidestep the issue of the resistance, because the latter's reasons for existing are still valid.

His eminence visited Sidon yesterday and met with various officials there. He called on all sides and militias to serve the cause of resistance against the enemy. He said that the Army's deployment in the South and western al-Biqa' was done on the understanding that the resistance will be preserved and will continue.

His eminence said: We are using all possible means to seek the release of His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. Al-Musawi rejected any comparison between the issue of Shaykh 'Ubayd and that of Jews who were captured in the battlefield.

His eminence added that all the political activities and any steps that may emerge from al-Ta'if under the pretext of resolving the country's problems are misguided, because Israel is not considering withdrawal. The actions of the resistance and its continuation are the only means of expelling the Zionists from Lebanon.

PLO To Discuss Military Presence With Government

NC0204230991 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The PLO has announced that as a state it is ready to discuss the organization of its military presence in Lebanon with the Lebanese authorities.

Following a PLO meeting in Tunis, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said: We are eager to have good relations between the PLO as a state and the Lebanese Government. He noted that all things can be solved and dealt with within the framework of mutual understanding. He added that the PLO is ready to facilitate all measures that could help extend Lebanese authority over all of Lebanon.

Communist Party To Disarm if Israelis Leave South

NC0304093191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party [LCP], has said that the LCP and the

national resistance are prepared to lay down their weapons and hand them to the Army after, not before, the Israeli forces leave the South.

Hawi also expressed his party's readiness to implement the recent Cabinet decisions in both letter and spirit.

Palestinian Officials View Disarmament Decision

NC0204115091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Among the latest Palestinian proposals on the issue of turning over Palestinians' weapons [to the Lebanese authorities] Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, announced in Damascus that he accepts the Lebanese Government's decision to disarm the Palestinians in Lebanon with the condition that the decision also applies to Antoine Lahd's agent militia.

Meanwhile, Abu-'Ali Mustafa, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, called for laying down the foundations of bilateral Lebanese-Palestinian relations. In a speech at al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus, he said that the Palestinian fighters are not a militia produced by the Lebanese civil war, but had been there long before that to fight the Zionist enemy and liberate Palestine. He said it is not permissible to confuse the Palestinian revolution with other militias. He added, however, that the PLO will not be an obstacle to the establishment of Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territories.

Salih Zaydan, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's Political Bureau, said earlier that the Palestinian people in Lebanon are a people with rights and are not a political party or a militia. He said that among their rights is the provision of security to defend themselves against Israeli aggression so that the Sabra and Shatila massacres will not be repeated.

We note here that Zayd Wahbah, PLO representative in the South, said last Saturday [30 March] that the Palestinian military force is a regional and international force and is not a local force. He added: As long as Israel occupies our land, we would rather give up our lives than hand over our rifles.

Sa'adah on 'Delicate Situation' After Meeting

NC3103190591 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Phalangist Party Leader Dr. George Sa'adah described the situation in light of the recent Cabinet meeting as delicate. He said that it is no longer acceptable for the [al-Ta'if] agreement be implemented selectively—by choosing and implementing specific clauses and ignoring others.

He said that the current crisis is represented by the practices of some ministers in the cabinet. We are now facing an overwhelming majority in the form of a bloc—a matter that violates the spirit of the accord—which we are eager to maintain and without which no solution can be achieved in Lebanon. He added that if matters persist in this manner, then anything could happen, even resignation from the government.

Dr. Sa'adah indicated that, during the talks he and Minister of State Roger Dib held with [Syrian Vice President] 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus, a form of an agreement was reached on postponing the issue of parliamentary appointments; however, but, he added, he and Minister Dib were surprised by an insistence on dealing with the subject in one Cabinet session.

He pointed out that before he stopped his boycott of the government, an agreement was reached with the president that the Cabinet agenda would be agreed on before being reviewed. He added: We were surprised by the fact that this agreement was not respected.

Three Explosions Reported in Al-Matn

NC0304112291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Three strong explosions shook the center of al-Matn yesterday. Radio Free Lebanon has learned that the cause was three explosive charges that went off in the town of Bayt Shabab. The first explosion hit a Mercedes-500, owned by a citizen named Samir al-Hayik. The other two blasts targeted a shop and a tanker truck belonging to a citizen named Faris Darwish.

Preliminary information indicates that members of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] are behind the three attacks. Bayt Shabab town is located within the vicinity of fortified Greater Beirut.

Al-Asad-Mubarak Talks Bring 'Climate of Confidence'

NC0304062891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Summit Meeting on the Level of Responsibility," TISHRIN says: The meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak represented a revival of inter-Arab solidarity efforts that the Gulf crisis, which was provoked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, almost destroyed—to the evident satisfaction of Israel.

The paper says that the meeting of Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak will give a strong boost to collective Arab action and will create a climate of confidence and optimism for a better Arab future.

It notes Syria's and Egypt's role in greatly limiting Israel's ability to blackmail the world and its organizations. It says that Israel has been pushed into a corner, which is proved by the serious international efforts to implement UN resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 344 that provide for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and trading land for peace within the framework of a comprehensive conference held under UN auspices.

Israeli Regional Positions Discussed

Increased Pressures Urged

NC0204165291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen. It is noted that whenever the appropriate international conditions become available and international diplomatic efforts to find a just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict issue become serious, the symbols of Zionist extremism go into action to thwart these efforts through arbitrary measures such as deportations or expulsions or through statements that confirm the Zionists' insistence on their occupation of the Arab territories and their adherence to the policy of building settlements, annexation, and absorption.

Following the international community's realization of the need to benefit from the impetus created by the international consensus on the Gulf issue and the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, following the restoration of the UN role in that issue, and after all the parties concerned with that issue have expressed their commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy, following all this realization, U.S. and European efforts began to start a real endeavor to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The U.S. secretary of state and the EC troika ministers toured this region for that purpose. It was observed that the new ideas, specifically the U.S. ones, underlined the expressions of comprehensive and just solutions and proposed ideas that negate the claims used by Israel throughout the past years to justify its continued occupation of the Arab territories, such as the theory of Israeli security which is linked to the need for geographic expansion and such as the need to maintain Israel's military superiority over all the Arabs as the guarantee for Israel's security and safety.

For the first time, we have started to hear U.S. statements calling on Israel to learn from the Gulf war lesson and stressing that geography does not achieve security, that the endeavors to possess advanced weapons do not constitute a security guarantee, that the just peace is the only guarantee, and that the formula to achieve peace in the Middle East requires ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in return for that peace.

The fact is that these statements agree to a large extent with what the Arabs have been calling for during the past decades. They also negate Israel's claims and pretexts to stick to its occupation of the Arab territories. Thus it was natural for the Arabs to respond and welcome these ideas. It was also logical for Israel to express its fear of these ideas and escalate the campaign of its officials' statements and its occupation authorities' measures, all of which, in the final analysis, are part and parcel of the known Israeli intransigent stand that refuses to abandon the Arab territories; a stand that is indifferent to its consquences that prevent the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region.

Israel's frenzied desire to sabotage the current international efforts to give impetus to the peace process in the region does in fact explain the overall Israeli statements, behavior, and current stands. Despite the surprise which Washington sometimes expresses with these negative Israeli stands and statements, despite the European and non-European dismay with Israel's statements that thwart the peace efforts, and despite all the international community's regret and rejection of the various Israeli practices, the latest of which was the deportation decision, Israel continues to show intransigence and stubbornness and continues its policy that impedes every just and peaceful settlement and that rejects any withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Such a stand by Israel undoubtedly requires increased pressures on it through all means in order to force it not to be an obstacle to the just peace and not to thwart the current serious international efforts which benefit from the prevailing suitable world conditions. Without such pressures, the international community will undoubtedly lose a new opportunity to establish peace in this region. If the conflict in this region is not resolved, then it will remain a source of tension and the situation in it will remain threatened with explosion at any time because of Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy.

Stand on UN Resolutions Denounced

NC0204162791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0551 GMT 31 Mar 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel's Policy and the International Community," AL-BA'TH writes that the entire world, save Israel, has recognized the legitimacy of the Arab Palestinian people's right to their soil and homeland. Israel alone refuses to recognize these rights and persists in pursuing the iron fist policy against our people in the occupied homeland; that is, in Palestine, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon.

The paper asserts that Israel's persistent refusal to implement international resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict can mainly be attributed to its dependence on the unlimited support it is getting from the West, specifically from the United States.

The paper notes that several opportunities have come up were a suitable solution could have been found; however, Israel always places obstacles in the path of peace. Now, when there is a favorable opportunity and the entire world agrees on the need to use it, Israel persists in its policy of rejection. They demonstrate this in their settlement policy, which is certainly a policy of aggression and expansion at the expense of Arabs and their legitimate rights.

The paper says: We Arabs have become fully convinced that the international community—by which we mean the UN Security Council, which represents this community—is the only body capable of taking the initiative and implementing the resolutions it has adopted on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Attitude Toward Just Peace Viewed

NC0104142791 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Mar 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel Wants Us Without Land or Rights"]

[Text] Whenever this or that international circle calls for finding a just and comprehensive solution to the region's issues, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel gets very angry. Its extremist, terrorist leaders level accusations against those who let themselves be seduced to talk about just solutions to the Middle East situation...!

Some official international circles have proposed ideas, no more, no less. These ideas, at best, are general, unspecific, even "elastic." Nevertheless, Israel considers them developments that might lead to an end to the current state of tension in the region. Israel, as usual, hastens to categorically reject even these general ideas, believing that the act of merely proposing them is an act against it...!

Israel has responded to these very general ideas with sharp statements, which indicate that the policy of aggression and expansion is something taken for granted and out of the question. This has been confirmed by senior and junior Israeli officials, from both the current government and the opposition. They say: "Israel has no plans at all to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian or Arab territories." Israel is ready to establish peace and cooperation with the Arabs without discussing the territories. In other words, it wants land, peace, and cooperation. Of course, the enemy's leaders did not forget to support their assertions by a series of statements that clearly indicated that Israel was actually preparing for new military action under various excuses, including, for example, Syria's acquisition of new weapons...!

Thus, Israel tells the whole world: "The Arabs are required to relinquish their land and their historic, internationally recognized rights." For what? For agreeing to establish peace and cooperation with them...!

Israel has acted this way since its establishment in our Arab homeland. It gets what it wants from various countries in the world, especially in today's world. It gets money and the most sophisticated weapons available. What is more serious than this is the unprecedented immigration currently under way. Yet, Israel denies the Arabs their rights not only in Israel, they also want to deny Arabs from strengthening themselves to repulse the aggression that is expected from Israel. Regrettably, the "others" immediately respond to Israel's (desire) without any logical discussion. Finally, in light of this fact we Arabs should not be tempted much by some words or expressions from this or that side. We believe it is time for us to deal with others through their true support for our just causes...!

What is more important is to translate this idea into action. We say this because the cause no longer tolerates playing with words, especially since Israel, as it is clear, wants everything for nothing in return...!

Once again, we affirm that the Arabs must crystallize an effective international position that can achieve a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace in the region and apply international legitimacy to everything...!

Afghanistan

UN Official Meets Najibullah, Discusses Khowst

LD0204184891 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The Presidential Press Office reported to us: Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received this afternoon His Excellency Benin Sevan, the UN Secretary general's assistant, special envoy, and coordinator of UN humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan, and talked to him about recent incidents and developments in Khowst. Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, during the talks attended also by presidential aide Muhammad Is'haq Tukhi, informed the UN secretary general's envoy about the circumstances of Pakistan's direct armed aggression against Afghanistan in the border province of Khowst, and warned him about the very dangerous consequences of Pakistan's military circles' adventurist and aggressive policies and acts.

Esteemed Najibullah mentioned recent efforts and measures of the Republic of Afghanistan to improve relations and reduce tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and expressed regret and apprehension over the continued hostile and anti-Afghan policies of specific Pakistani circles. The esteemed president repeated his emphasis on the need to increase the UN secretary general's and his envoy's diplomatic activities which have recently gained relative momentum.

In response, His Excellency Benin Sevan described his own efforts and that of the UN secretary general to help lay down principles for a comprehensive accord for a political solution of the Afghan problem. His Excellency Benin Sevan informed the esteemed president that the UN secretary general watches Afghan developments closely, especially the Khowst incidents, and is deeply concerned about the human losses and devastation caused by the continuation of war. The UN secretary general calls upon all Afghans to consider their national interests higher than any other one, and to resolve their differences politically.

The UN secretary general has also called upon all related sides to treat POW's in line with accepted international rules and to aid the International Committee of the Red Cross. Commenting on the recent Khowst incidents, the UN secretary general has emphasized the urgent need for a political solution and hopes that the international community will intensify its efforts to find such a solution. The assistant and envoy of the UN secretary general has visited the countries of the region in this respect and is in contact with related sides.

Meets Foreign Affairs Minister

LD0204220791 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdol Wakil met this morning in his office His Excellency Benin Sevan, the UN secretary general's assistant and special envoy. At this meeting the minister of foreign affairs briefed him about events in Khowst and the direct participation of Pakistani army units in the war against the republic of Afghanistan. He added that the government of Pakistan, contrary to all standards, intergovernment relations, the UN charter and the Geneva accords between Afghanistan and Pakistan, has openly and directly joined the war against the Republic of Afghanistan.

Prior to this, by presenting specific proposals, the Republic of Afghanistan has used all its endeavors for improving relations with Pakistan and called for the cessation of hostilities and the creation of constructive cooperation between the two countries. Pakistan, however, impudently invaded the sanctity of the Afghans' homeland and trampled on all its commitments. The minister of foreign affairs emphatically repeated the Republic of Afghanistan's demand for an end to the aggression and the cessation of Pakistan's interference, and added that the United Nations must use all measures for this purpose and prevent further complication of the situation.

On behalf of the UN secretary general and himself, His Excellency Benin Sevan expressed his sorrow and profound concern regarding events in Khowst and repeated the UN secretary general's demand for a political solution of the issue by the belligerent parties. Benin Sevan handed over to the minister the text of a statement by the UN secretary general regarding events in Khowst.

Meli Shura Denounces Pakistan's 'Aggression'

LD0204203591 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Statement issued by the Meli Shura, dated 2 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our dear compatriots are aware that for some time now the columns of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, together with warmongering and terrorist extremists, have begun aggressive operations against the city of Khowst, and as a result of this aggression the situation in Khowst province has deteriorated. These subversive activities have been stepped up at a time when a new situation for a political solution and inter-Afghan understanding is taking shape as a result of endeavors and constructive and specific measures taken by the government of the Republic of Afghanistan. Despite positive changes in securing detente in international relations, positive tendencies in solving regional issues by dialogue and compromise, as well as endeavors by the government of the Republic of Afghanistan in presenting constructive plans for the normalization of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and as a whole with the neighboring countries, the militarists of Pakistan, without considering these factors, have been continuing, as before, their warmongering and militarist policy

against the Republic of Afghanistan. Obviously the invasion of Khowst, carried out on the instruction of Pakistani militarists and their extremist mercenaries, cannot be regarded as any political-military gain in disrupting the military balance in their favor. They also bear responsibility for the mass killing of innocent people including women, children, and elders of our country. These moves will also further expose the aggressive intentions of Pakistan as well as the anti-national and criminal features of the mercenary extremists.

On the other hand such irresponsible activities of the militarists of Pakistan can also be regarded as meaning the heightening of tension in Afghanistan-Pakistan relations, the continuation of war and fratricide in Afghanistan, and the creation of obstacles for the political resolution of Afghan problems.

In support of the recent speech by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on the Khowst situation, the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan resolutely denounces these aggressive actions by Pakistan against the sanctity of our freeborn and proud homeland. On the basis of the will of the courageous nation of Afghanistan, the Meli Shura announces that the dangerous consequences arising from this aggression, which is clearly against the specific text of the Geneva accords and principles of international relations, will rest on the ruling circles of Pakistan.

On the evidence of history, the people of Afghanistan, with firm faith and determination, will give a decisive reply to such aggression.

In attaching enormous respect to the pure blood of the Khowst defenders and martyrs of the homeland, the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan asks all peace-loving people of Afghanistan to stand up against aggression carried out by the militarists of Pakistan and their servants. Under the banner of national unity, like their fathers and ancestors, the Afghan people should defend every inch of their ancestors' land.

We call on all parliaments, governments, and social circles of the world to use their influence and exert pressure on the government of Pakistan to refrain from the continuation of adventures and aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan. The parliament of the Republic of Afghanistan asks all the country's people, realistic, and peace-loving forces, internal commanders, and all those who work for ending the war in the country to use their influence and authority for speeding up the process of political solution in the country and cessation of war by compromise and inter-Afghan dialogue.

Verily success comes from God.

AFP Reports Casualties From Battle for Khowst

BK0304012691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1002 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 3 (AFP)—More than 500 mujahidin wounded in the battle for the Afghan city of Khowst have so far been admitted to hospitals here, according to a count Wednesday by journalists.

Between 200 and 300 injured are being treated in the only International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) hospital, while ambulances continue to run between Miram Shah, 30 kilometres (19 miles) from Khowst, and Peshawar, 200 kilometres (124 miles) to the north.

Neither side has released casualty figures for the fighting, which led Sunday to the mujahidin takeover of Khowst.

Naim Majrooh, director of the Afghan Information Centre here, which has close links to the guerrillas, estimated more than 1,000 mujahidin had been killed or wounded.

The Kabul Government declared Tuesday a "national day of mourning."

A mujahidin commander, Jalaluddin Haqqani, said about 600 wounded government troops in a Khowst hospital had been evacuated for fear of bombardments. The ICRC is trying to find out where they are.

Meanwhile, the guerrillas' latest casualty estimate from the government's firing of four Scud missiles on Khowst Monday was 14 government troops and resistance fighters killed, and 30 wounded.

Three more Scuds reportedly fell Tuesday on Khowst, but no casualty figures were released by the mujahidin.

The civilian population was evacuated from Khowst immediately after its "liberation," said the mujahidin, who are setting up prisoner of war camps in the region.

The guerrillas, who hold more than 2,500 soldiers and militia, have designated the ICRC to deal with the question of prisoners and wounded.

Commentary Criticizes Pakistan, Mujahidin

LD0304041491 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Apr 91

[By BAKHTAR political commentator]

[Text] Khowst, which is situated 25 km from the border of Pakistan, has over the past 12 years been under open aggression from the Pakistan Government, especially its military, in collaboration with the extremist forces of the Afghan opposition. Over the past two weeks Khowst came under fresh aggression and attacks by Pakistan's military with the collaboration of the extremist Afghan forces such as Gulbuddin, Khalis, Sayyaf, these spies of Pakistan's military intelligence. In attacks on Khowst, modern weapons, artillery, long-range rockets, tanks, militia [paramilitary tribal troops], and Pakistani commando units were used by the Pakistani military under the direct command of Pakistan's generals and Gulbuddin, this renowned nation-seller. Brave defenders of Khowst defended their positions to the last moment. But because they were confronted by larger forces, Khowst

eventually fell into the hands of the joint forces of Pakistan's military and Afghan extremists, who are hired by Pakistan's military intelligence agency.

The extremists might think they had gained a victory with the attack on Khowst. They should know that the people of Afghanistan consider them the most defeated and despicable traitor elements to their nation—with no will of their own, in the hands of Pakistan's military circles.

Over the past 12 years the extremists had tried to capture Khowst, but every time they faced shameful defeats. This cannot be called military success. The Pakistani military with all its heavy vehicles and equipment joined hands with extremist mercenaries and a number of national traitor elements to overrun Khowst. After 12 years of consecutive defeats, military forces of Pakistan once again endeavored through hiring national traitors such as Gulbuddin, Yunis Khalis, and Sayyaf the Wahhabi, to launch a treacherous attck on Khowst.

The aim of those treacherous attacks and the aggressions of Pakistan's military and the extremists is completely clear. The extremists who attacked Khowst with wide assistance from Pakistan's military believe that will destroy the peace process, which has progressed both nationally and internationally. The Pakistani military and hired Afghan extremists are afraid of peace in the Republic of Afghanistan. They do not want the restoration of peace in Afghanistan because they pursue special aims which cannot be achieved in a peaceful atmosphere. The Pakistani military, Gulbuddin, and so on are drug mafia rings who are oppose peace and stability in our country.

Pakistani militarists tried very hard to boost their weakening morale and compensate for consecutive defeats of extremists under their support in Jalalabad, Qandahar, Zabol, and other parts of the country by aggressive attacks on Khowst, which is 25 km from Pakistan. One of the reasons for the attack of Pakistan's military with extremist collaboration is the extremist's fear of the increasing inclination of the moderates, intellectuals, and other strata of Afghan society toward the national reconciliation policy, their cooperation for reaching an intra-Afghan understanding, and of the inclination of internal commanders toward the peaceful resolution of the Afghan problem, even their cooperation for ensuring the peace. They know that with the deepening of national reconciliation, the extremists' cash accumulation extravaganza and that of the militarists will disappear. Therefore the Pakistani military continues open aggression against our country in contravention of the Geneva agreement. It supports Afghan extremist elements who are ready to abandon the independence and territorial integrity of our country and uses them as means—with no will of their own—against national interests of the Afghan people.

The extremists and their international supporters should know that the people of Afghanistan, like their fathers and ancestors, will defend their independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty. Now all Afghan people, including moderate forces of the opposition, intellectuals, Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran, know that the Pakistan Government—especially its military—has mounted an aggression into Afghanistan. The Pakistani military tries to strengthen the extremists supported by them, but the strengthening of the extremists contravenes the national and cultural interests of all our people. The gallant people of Afghanistan will never allow a bunch of foreign mercenaries associated with the military intelligence agency of Pakistan to compromise the land of Afghans. Like their fathers and ancestors, they will teach a lesson to the aggressors.

Bangladesh

Tribunal Continues Ershad Weapons Trial

BK0204114691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1036 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Dhaka, April 2 (AFP)—A special tribunal trying deposed Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on illegal weapons possession charges Tuesday examined eight unlicensed firearms, including two gold-plated pistols, seized from his residence.

Mr. Ershad, who was forced to resign last year after nine years in power in the face of mass protests, appeared at times relaxed and at times serious on the accused dock as the prosecution produced the shining weapons before the one-judge court.

The 61-year-old former leader, who was brought before the specially guarded court for the fourth day Tuesday, earlier pleaded not guilty to the charges, which if proved could put him behind bars for a maximum life term.

Advocate Sirajul Haq, a senior local criminal lawyer, appeared for the first time to defend Mr. Ershad, who is also facing another state case for alleged corruption and abuse of power.

Mr. Haq , a presidium member of the opposition Awami League party of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, earlier resigned from his party post before taking the brief from his predecessor Kazi Shahadat Hossain, sources close to him said. They added that his resignation and subsequent appearance to defend the ousted president had caused some controversy within and outside the league.

Earlier, Attorney General Aminul Haq produced before the tribunal Dhaka's chief metropolitan magistrate Azizul Haq Bhuiyan as a state witness.

Mr. Bhuiyan, who identified the seized weapons, was head of a government committee which inspected the cantonment barrack residence of the former president after his December 12 arrest. He prepared an inventory of household items including the unlicenced weapons and some other unauthorised goods.

The prosecution said the committee also found eight other weapons with valid licences and as such were deposited with the local police.

More prosecution witnesses were expected to be questioned when the tribunal meets again later this week.

The second case against Mr. Ershad, involving corruption, is to come up before the same tribunal on April 17, court sources said.

On Sunday [31 March] a three-man judicial commission which is investigating allegations of corruption, malpractice and abuse of power against Mr. Ershad and some of his ministers submitted the first part of its report to the government, officials said.

The committee examined 53 allegations and found sufficient evidence to support 43 allegations.

Informed sources said more than 2,000 allegations against Mr. Ershad, his wife Raushan and associates were filed by individuals and government agencies before the commission headed by Justice Ansaruddin Ahmed.

The commission told acting president Shahabuddin Ahmed that its initial report involving the 43 allegations should be published for general information. The report has yet not been made public.

Awami League Urges Power Shift to Parliament

BK0204161191 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] A six-member delegation of Awami League, including Abdus Samad Azad, MP [member of parliament], and Tofail Ahmed, MP, met the acting president, Dr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, at the President's Secretariat today. They raised the question of transfer of power to a sovereign parliament as it was pledged in the joint declaration of three alliances of political parties in November last. The acting president reminded them that on a number of occasions he had explained the position of the Constitution vis-a-vis the joint declaration. He told them that the matter should be sorted out by the concerned political parties and the problem should be solved in the ensuing parliament.

The Awami League leaders drew the attention of the acting president to some news items published in a section of the press that he would tender resignation to the speaker of the parliament and expressed concern about his successor. The acting president advised them and all others concerned to better read the constitutional provision, instead of getting worried at the sensational news published in some section of the president.

The acting president expressed the hope that the inaugural ceremony of the new parliament will be held in a peaceful atmosphere.

India

Shekhar Says No Final Decision on Assam Election

BK0204151091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The prime minister has said that no final decision has been taken on holding elections in Assam. Addressing a news conference in Guwahati this evening, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said there has been improvement in the law and order situation in the state and hoped that it will improve further. He said the polls will be conducted if the voters can participate without any hindrance and political parties function without harassment. The prime minister earlier had a meeting with the state governor, Mr. Lok Nath Mishra, in Guwahati. They discussed the situation in the state.

The Congress-I says that elections in Assam should only be held when the situation is conducive for peaceful polls and political parties are allowed to function normally. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, senior party leader, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, pointed out that not even a month before the parliament had extended president's rule in Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab on the ground that elections could not be held in these states. He said if the center decides to hold elections in any of these three places, it must explain to the people how the situation has changed now.

Government Urged To Vote Against Iraq Resolution

BK0204134091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The Janata Dal has criticized the draft UN resolution on ending hostilities in Iraq as being too severe on Baghdad and has urged the Chandra Shekhar government to vote against it. Party leader and former external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has written to the prime minister explaining the Janata Dal stand. Mr. Gujral's letter, released to the press today, says that the resolution does not conform to India's traditional foreign policy.

Socialist Party-Lohia Merges With Janata Dal-S

BK0204152891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The Socialist Party-Lohia has decided to merge with the Janata Dal-S. A decision to this effect was taken unanimously by the party's national executive at a meeting in New Delhi.

Haryana Governor Recommends House Dissolution

BK0304043891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The Haryana governor, Mr. Dhanik Lal Mandal, is understood to have recommended dissolution of State Assembly and imposition of President's rule in the state.

AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent understands that the governor's recommendation, finalized after consultations with constitutional experts, was sent to the president last night. However, Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] sources in Chandigarh refused to comment on it. It may be recalled that Mr. Chautala was sworn in as chief minister of Haryana on the 22d of last month. He recommended the dissolution of the assembly after the speaker disqualified three ruling party members including a minister under the antidefection act. The governor directed Mr. Chautala to prove his majority on the floor of the house by today but Mr. Chautala said he need not prove his majority as he has already recommended dissolution of the house.

Orissa Chief Wants Autonomy, Not Separate State

BK0304093291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The Orissa chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, has demanded that the jurisdiction of the Center should be limited to defense, foreign affairs, and currency, while the states should be free to do their own planning and development. Mr. Patnaik suggested that the Constitution should be amended to suit what he called the needs of the people. He was replying to a letter from the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, seeking clarification on press reports attributing certain remarks to Mr. Patnaik.

While reiterating his demand for state autonomy, the chief minister maintained that he never espoused the theory of division of the country.

Election Commission Queries TV Chief's Transfer

BK0204152691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The Election Commission is seeking a clarification from the government on the transfer of the Doordarshan [Delhi television] news chief, Mr. Harish Awasthi. The deputy election commissioner, Dr. R.P. Bhalla, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the commission will examine whether his shifting violates the ban on transfers which came into effect on the 25th of last month.

Ban Urged on Manipulation of Religion for Election

BK0204134491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] A meeting of some eminent religious leaders in New Delhi today called for a total ban on the use of religious disputes as a poll issue in the coming elections. It also appealed to leaders of all religions to promote brotherhood, mutual coexistence, and communal harmony among the people. Among those who took part in the meeting were Jagatguru Shankaracharya Swami Swarupanandji Saraswati, Acharya Sushil Kumarji, and Maulana Syed Mohammad Musavi. Briefing newsmen, Maulana Musavi said a memorandum is being sent to the president, the prime minister, and the chief election commissioner appealing to them to make all efforts to ensure that no party exploits religious issues for political ends. The leaders also announced the formation of a 101-member committee to resolve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue.

Four Killed, 14 Injured in Amritsar Bomb Blast

BK0304090691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] In Punjab, four persons, including an old woman, were killed and 14 others injured in a powerful bomb blast in Amritsar this morning. The bomb exploded in the Putligarh area. The injured have been admitted to hospital. According to police, the bomb was kept in a tin container tied to the carrier of a bicycle parked about 28 meters from a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] picket on Shershah-Suri Marg.

Two Killed, 17 Injured in Jammu Bomb Blast

BK0204160791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] In Jammu, two persons were killed and 17 others injured in a bomb blast at the railway station this afternoon. Six injured persons were discharged after first aid, while 11 others were admitted to hospital. According to the station superintendent, the bomb exploded at about 1400. All trains are leaving Jammu as per schedule. The state government has announced an ex-gratia relief of 1 lakh rupees each to the next of kin of those killed in the bomb blast. The state governor has expressed grief over the loss of life in the bomb blast.

Afghan Envoy Says Pakistani Troops Took Khowst

BK0204164291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1623 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 2 (AFP)—Afghanistan has sought an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss Khowst, the garrison town lost to the mujahidin Sunday [31 March], its ambassador here said Tuesday.

Ambassador Ahmed Sarwar also renewed Kabul's charge that Pakistan was directly helping the mujahidin, claiming that 10,000 Pakistani soldiers had overpowered 1,500 Afghan troops, then handed Khowst to the rebels.

He said Kabul was determined to retake Khowst, and that it had sought an urgent Security Council session to take steps to avert a "regional conflict."

Islamabad denies it is involved in the fighting anywhere in Afghanistan. Diplomats have also cast doubt on direct Pakistani involvement.

Sweden Refuses To Reopen Bofors Investigation

BK0304093491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Swedish authorities have refused to reopen the investigation into the Bofors deal. The Swedish news agency quoted the national prosecutor Mr. Torsten Jonsson as saying that the Secrets Act makes it impossible for them to get hold of certain information. Earlier, in February the prosecutor Mr. Lars Ringberg had also told India that there were no new facts to initiate a new preliminary investigation. The Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] had requested Swedish help in the inquiry more than a year ago. The CBI had also requested permission to examine the former Bofors chief, Mr. Martin Arbdo, in court. An agency report says the national prosecutor has directed the Swedish Government to release some documents connected with the inquiry to India through diplomatic channels.

Commentary Reviews Developments in Kashmir

BK0204120191 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Commentary by Simon Paes of UNITED NEWS OF INDIA]

[Text] Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Rathore's [prime minister of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir] decision to recommend the dissolution of occupied Kashmir's so-called legislative assembly on 31st March may surprise those who have been following the political developments in that region since the polls in May last year. Mr. Rathore is on record for having declared a number of times that his government would run the full five-year term till 1995 and that any attempt by the Pakistani Government to shorten it would be met with stiff resistance. He talked of a massive revolt against the Pakistani government in that event. It was expected that Mr. Rathore's Pakistan People's Party [PPP] in occupied Kashmir would be dismissed after the dismissal of the PPP government in Pakistan in August last year.

Since its forced occupation in 1947, Pakistan kept that part of Kashmir under its direct control through the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs. A secretary in this ministry had the power to appoint or dismiss the so-called presidents in what it called Azad Kashmir, which has been a part of Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition to him, there were the Pakistani inspector general of police and army officers, and they still are, who kept occupied Kashmir under the complete Pakistani sway. They denuded that region of its natural wealth and did not think of starting industries and providing educational and health facilities to the local people. The people in that region were allowed to elect a legislative assembly as late as the 1970 end. Sardar Qayyum, a known supporter of the Pakistani army became the president. But when Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's PPP came to power in Pakistan, Qayyum's government was replaced with a freshly-raised unit of the PPP in occupied Kashmir. Sardar Qayyum protested, and in 1975 wrote a letter to Sheikh Abdullah [of Indian Kashmir] to help liberate the people of occupied Kashmir. The letter gave details of the atrocities committed by the Pakistani army on the people of Kashmir whenever they demanded their rights.

In July 1977, Mr. Bhutto's government in Pakistan was toppled by General Ziaul Haq and martial law imposed on the country. If any rule was to be observed, this change should not have affected occupied Kashmir. Yet the occupied Kashmir's government was not only removed, but that region was practically put under martial law by appointing a serving officer, Brigadier Mohammad Hayat, as president. Political activities were not allowed and the PPP workers faced persecution as they did in Pakistan. Occupied Kashmir was allowed to have elections only after they had been held in Pakistan in February 1985. That Sardar Qayyum's Muslim Conference won them in the absence of any effective opponent held no surprise.

Sardar Qayyum, who completely identified himself with the military in his tussle with the political parties who demanded the restoration of democracy in Pakistan, became the president again. In December 1988 when the PPP returned to power in Pakistan, there was talk of a change of government in occupied Kashmir. Sardar Qayyum now joined hands with Islami Jamhoori Ittehad to discourage Ms. Benazir Bhutto from any intention of sacking his government. Ms. Bhutto allowed his government to complete its full term. The next elections were held in May last year when Ms. Bhutto's party was still in power in Pakistan. The occupied Kashmir unit of the PPP won 19 seats in a 48-member house and along with other parties formed the government. It had the support of 29 members as against 19 who supported the Muslim Conference.

After the sacking of Ms. Bhutto's government in Pakistan, Sardar Qayyum set out on a campaign to get Mr. Rathore's government dismissed legally or illegally. He constantly threatened to move a motion of no-confidence against Mr. Rathode's government, saying that he—Mr. Rathore—was imposed on occupied Kashmir by the notorious Interservices Intelligence—ISI. Mr. Rathore's latest move for dissolution of the assembly and his continuance as caretaker prime minister are via media between his continuance as the prime minister and outright dismissal. It could indicate Islamabad's success in making peace between Sardar Qayyum and Mr. Rathore.

Iran

'Thousands' of Iraqi Refugees Request Asylum

LD0204212191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tens of thousands of war refugees in north Iraq have crowded on the Haj Omran frontier of the Piranshahr region [in West Azerbaijan Province], planning to enter Iran.

According to a Central News Unit report from Orumiyeh, an informed source at the governorate-general of West Azerbaijan said that more than 25,000 vehicles on the other side of the frontier in Haj Omran are waiting to enter Iran.

According to the report, the occupants of these cars have asked the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for asylum.

Paper Seeks 'Explanations' for Cooper's Release

LD0304101791 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—A commentary in the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Wednesday criticized the judiciary for failing to provide enough explanations on the "unexpected release" of a British national, Roger Cooper, Tuesday who served over five years of imprisonment on espionage charges in Iran.

According to all evidences Cooper was a spy, but the judiciary must have had enough reasons for his release, the commentary said. However, the question is why has the judiciary failed to inform the nation of its decision.

The paper believed that the move will lead to gossip by the ill- wishers, if the juciciary fails to give enough explanations on the existing ambiguities concerning the issue.

Questions to be answered are: Whether Cooper was convicted of espionage activities and if so, what was the term of his imprisonment? Was he freed after having served his prison term? If his sentence was commuted, what is the benefit of such a move for the Islamic Republic?

The paper argued that by raising such questions it did not intend to bring acts of the judiciary under question, but to criticize it for having failed to provide the public with necessary explanations.

The commentary in conclusion believed that it is still not too late and that the judiciary can still provide the nation with convincing explanations and prevent any misinterpretation by the ill-wishers.

Envoy Informs UN of Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

LD0304111791 Tehran IRNA in English 0713 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 3, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi informed the U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar on Tuesday of blatant Iraqi violation of the cease-fire regulations established between the two neighbouring countries in July 1988.

In a letter to Perez de Cuellar, Kharrazi specified that a full Iraqi brigade equipped with combat weaponries crossed into the Iranian territory in Khanaqin-Khosrawi border point on March 26, attacked the Iranian forces killing and injuring a number of border guards and capturing 35 others.

Also, Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement submitted to the U.N. chief together with the letter, said that the Iranian Government holds the Iraqi Government fully responsible for consequences of such blatant violation of the cease-fire regulations and well-being of those captured. The Foreign Ministry demanded immediate and unconditional release of those captured on the basis of international conventions.

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned Iraq's Charge d'Affaires to Tehran Fakhri Hamud al-Dulaymi to the ministry on March 26 and strongly protested against the illegal actions of the Iraqi government, the incident of March 26 in particular.

Swiss Foreign Minister Arrives for Meetings

LD0204175791 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, Apr. 2, IRNA—The Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber arrived in Tehran at the head of a five-man delegation this afternoon and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During his three-day stay here, the Swiss foreign minister will meet with Velayati, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh.

Upon arrival in Tehran, the Swiss foreign minister told reporters that in his talks with Iranian officials he would discuss the outcome of the Persian Gulf war, mutual relations as well as participation of Swiss companies in Iran's reconstruction and five-year development plan.

He said he will also consider the possibility of concluding an agreement between the two countries for joint investments.

Also present at the airport was Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmoud Va'ezi as well as the ambassadors of the two countries.

* RESALAT on 16, 19, 20, Jan Majles Sessions

16 Jan Session

91AS0519A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Jan 91 pp 5, 8

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—The Majles met yesterday morning and afternoon in public session.

At this session, after remarks by the rest of the deputies supporting and opposing, the committee secretary and the government representative defended the budget bill for the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992].

Then a vote was taken on the whole of this bill and it was passed.

Hoseyni Shahrudi (opponent)

In continued consideration of the budget bill for the year 1370 at yesterday's public Majles session, Mr. Hoseyni Shahrudi, Shahrud deputy, spoke as the eighth opponent.

Mr. Hoseyni discussed the characteristics of the national budget in rials. He said: The best national budget of all is the one that can collect revenue from the people and spend it for the people, and the worst budget is the one that has taken its revenues from the country's resources and spends them on operations expenses. Unfortunately, for long years we have taken our budget from underground resources and reserves, especially oil, and spent it on operations expenses. He cited the reduction in the share of taxes in the 1370 budget as a violation of the Five-Year Plan. He said: Based on the Five-Year Plan, the share of taxes must be 44 percent, and this figure is no more than 31 percent in the bill submitted to the Majles.

The Shahrud deputy noted: Although the share of taxes in the budget bill for 1370 is high, this figure has decreased compared to total revenues.

He said: Although the Five-Year Plan expects a decline in dependence on oil revenues and that most of the government's revenues will come from tax collections and incidental sources, in the budget bill the dependence on oil is 50 percent, increasing from 1,143 billion rials based on the Five-Year Plan to 3,938 billion rials, and this is a violation of the Five-Year Plan.

He noted: Another positive step in the 1370 budget bill is that borrowing is expected to be lower than the figure set in the Five-Year Plan, but the Plan and Budget Committee has increased the borrowing in this bill to the figure provided in the Five-Year Plan, and in so doing it has made a move toward increasing inflation.

The Shahrud deputy said that the increase in the rial budget in the 1370 budget bill is a violation of the Five-Year Plan. He said: Operations portion of the 1370 budget are set at 4,236 billion rials in the Five-Year Plan, but in the bill submitted to the Majles this figure has been increased to 5,526 billion rials, and unfortunately the Plan and Budget Committee, instead of making this figure close to the ceiling set in the Five-Year Plan, has increased it again to 5,863 billion rials. He discussed the foreign exchange budget. He said: In the bill presented by the government, foreign exchange costs are set at $30 billion. The Plan and Budget Committee has decreased that figure to $20 billion, and this act by the Plan and Budget Committee deserves thanks, because this measure reduces foreign commitments.

He said: The budget in rials creates domestic inflation, but if the foreign exchange budget is not realistic, it will cause dependence on foreigners.

Calling the oil revenues unrealistic, he said: The expected $20 billion in oil revenues is unrealistic, because it is not the economic price, and it depends on political changes, and planning cannot be done on that figure.

Hoseyn Harati (proponent)

The eighth speaker in support of the budget bill for 1370 national budget was Mr. Hoseyn Harati, Sabzavar deputy.

He said: The budget presented for next year pursues five major goals, including: Action in pursuit of the goals of the Five-Year Plan, production, a profound look at the nation's fundamental and economic issues such as railroads, ports, strategic roads and other things, extensive attention to agriculture and rural people, and special consideration for the deprived areas.

He said the increase in the budget for operations expenses is due to new Majles legislation since the enactment of the Five-Year Plan and several unforeseeable matters.

Elsewhere in his talk, Mr. Hoseyn Harati explained that the increase in development costs is to make up for the adjustment in the foreign exchange rate for procuring development funds with regard to the Five-Year Plan and the increase in costs for reconstruction and the procurement of funds for development projects. He added: This year we gave most of the growth to industry. In this regard the first basic movement was the procurement of construction materials and the second was the procurement of machinery for development projects and plans.

Agriculture without industry goes nowhere and must be mechanized. Therefore, the help to industry is to procure agricultural machinery. Today industry is moving towards the procurement of agricultural machinery.

Continuing his remarks, he noted: In order for domestic ranchers to produce red meat domestically so we will not need meat imports, $30 million in foreign exchange has been provided which we are making available to them and $40 million has also been provided for producers of dairy products to stop our importing.

Mr. Hoseyn Harati said: Concerning government companies, we have arranged for changes in these companies in the framework of the Five-Year Plan, and for these companies to give all their detailed reports to the Plan and Budget Organization. We have stipulated precisely that these companies must classify their social and profit affairs so they will not show losses on the pretext of social services, and also that the situation in companies showing losses should be investigated by the Plan and Budget Organization, and if this organization agrees to the social services, they will continue to show losses.

Addressing the deputies, he defended the sale of competitive foreign exchange. He said: You yourselves approved competitive foreign exchange. You authorized the adjustment of the foreign exchange rate and the 310

billion rials that is on the government's shoulders must be procured from this same source. Competitive foreign exchange has five positive features, taxes on special expenditures, creating employment, reducing the volume of currency in circulation, and preventing borrowing in the budget and production.

He added: Based on the Five-Year Plan, we must provide the operations budget by collecting taxes, and we must spend the foreign exchange gained from the sale of oil on important investments and production. The rope that anchors the monster of inflation is production, not a series of dictated government policies, whose lack of success we have experienced.

'Abbas 'Ali Zali (opponent)

The next opponent to the budget bill was Mr. 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, Karaj deputy. He began his talk by citing the movement in the direction of the plan and the positive trend in development costs in the country as positive points in the budget bill for 1370, and he mentioned the matter of taxes, which according to him is a negative point in the bill. He said:

If we cannot act on the basis of proper taxation and move the people in the direction of production, the reliance on a one-product oil economy will be very dangerous.

He then said: The price of foreign exchange must be revived, because foreign exchange we make available to the people is unavoidable, and the ancillary effects are that high prices and inflation will be injected into society. Along with changing the price of foreign exchange, changes must be made in the things the executive organizations do on the basis of taste, which have brought about many high prices in society, and particular pressure has been put on deprived people.

He criticized the disproportion of budget allocations and the totality of development activities in connection with the decrease in budget. He said: If you merely increase the budget but there is no fundamental action for works, this will merely increase inflation in society.

Continuing his opposition to the budget bill, he discussed the necessity to investigate the condition of deprived people. With regard to rural areas, he said:

The rural areas must be given implements for work such as construction materials, machinery and other things. The oppressed people in the cities are no worse off than in the rural areas. These people were not able to remain in the rural areas, therefore they emigrated to the cities. Was employment and productive work created for them in the rural areas so they would not have to go to the cities? When they throng to the cities, they are certainly attracted to false images, because they have no work. Likewise, money alone is not sufficient for investment. The preparations necessary for production must be made, and if our tools and policies are not aimed at the producers, then increasing budget will not be able to solve their problems.

Explaining that we are losing our way in agriculture, he said: A mistaken image has grown up since the beginning of the revolution, that either the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Construction Jihad must correct the problems with agriculture, yet agriculture demands all the government's activities. The policies, approaches and coordination must be such that agriculture finds its true place. In my view, until these things happen, authorizing funds, increasing the price of wheat and other matters are reactionary approaches and will not take us down the right road. For example, the Majles proposes that the government buy meat. First we ought to see why it is that meat is remaining in the hands of the producer. In a country that imports 200,000 tons of meat, the producer is crying out that he is being left with meat on his hands. Policy-making in this affair is wrong. We must therefore correct the procedure, because the government does not have the ability to buy everything.

Mohammad Majdara (proponent)

The seventh supporter of the budget bill was Mr. Mohammad Majdara, Tonekabun deputy.

In his talk, he said: In the water and soil sectors in the first and second years of the plan the percentage of accomplishment and the goal set in the projects and activities to increase the return on water production grew 62 percent, 94 percent in the equipping and reconstruction of traditional farms, and in the forests and pastures sector, which are among the most import underpinnings of agriculture, we had growth of 100 percent in activities to protect forests from destruction and 76 percent in forestry.

He continued: If we take the first year of the plan in theory and law to be the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] and the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] as the first practical and implementation year, the accomplishments of the first nine months show us the direction the executive organizations are moving.

He said: In the animal husbandry and poultry sector, the results achieved were 99 percent in milk projects and production activities and 102 percent in red meat.

In the poultry meat sector we had growth of 97 percent, 112 percent in eggs, in cultivation and wheat projects and activities 102 percent, and 91 percent in rice. In the fisheries and marine in the water projects activities sector we had growth of 120 percent, in the northern waters, fish and caviar production grew 92 percent. These figures bring real hope for us.

Elsewhere in his talk, the speaker discussed the increase in the budget bill for 1370. He said: The budget increases were caused by the increase in staff wages on account by 20 billion tomans, 80 billion rials for implementing the army and police forces law, 12.6 billion rials for carrying

out the army law with regard to increasing rations, about 15 billion rials in connection with the education and training law, 750 million tomans for the overtime law, 1.7 billion tomans in connection with increasing insurance rates for government staff, as well as other matters such as the return of prisoners of war.

Davudi-Shamsi (opponent)

Mr. Davudi-Shamsi, Ardekan deputy, was the 10th opponent to the 1370 budget bill. He said: In view of the Five-Year Plan, the views of the respected president, the expectations of the people from the government, and the programs the respected ministers presented when they received the vote of confidence, It was not expected that in the third year of the plan such a budget bill would be prepared.

He added: The problems with this bill have to do with the budget-making system. If we look at the various notes, the ten parts of this bill and the enclosures, we see that the principles of budget-making have not been observed in its various parts, and orders are given in many of the notes that are not necessary.

He added: Instead of giving attention to basic needs and taking care of fundamentals first, it appears that most of it consists of windfall money and there is the feeling that whoever is the cleverest should come and get more money to spend in his own city and province. Now, when we are faced with a shortage of electricity, 60 to 70 percent of the rows one sees are for lower-priority items.

He added: The process of making the budget or the budget-making system must be revised to solve the problem of centralized administration, the increasing complexity of the administrative system, delays implementing the development plans, and many other social and economic problems.

Mr. Davudi-Shamsi added: I believe that the overall contents of this bill do not have their own real effects on society. Among the reasons why the budget cannot have its own real effects are the budget's legal allocations due to the failure to implement the budget liquidation law, the malfunctions that exist in terms of the intelligence system in the budget preparation process, the failure to achieve the goals of the Five-Year Plan for this year, lack of coordination between the Five-Year Plan and the budget, issues pertaining to the lack of centralization, the situation of resources and expenditures, the rule exceptions, the feudal system that prevails in the country, the foreign exchange budget and the damage the several-rate system brings to the country, the results of activities, priorities and the failure to observe them and the increase in the volume of the operations budget and its effects on inflation.

He added: Much emphasis is put on the matter of supervision, but if the budget allocations for previous years have not been spent in their own place, how does the Majles know? Until we have a budget liquidation statement, we ought not study the budget for the next year.

Morteza Alviri (proponent)

Then Morteza Alviri, chief of the Plan and Budget Committee, spoke in support of the 1370 budget bill. On his reasons for supporting this bill, he said:

Without using any kind of statistics with figures and numbers it can be shown that economically the country either loses ground or moves towards rebuilding the health of the economy. I maintain that in the year 1368 and the year 1369 the government's overall economic activity has progressed towards the economic health of society and in the same regard the 1370 budget, God willing, if properly implemented, can expedite rebuilding the health of the economy.

He then continued: Important indicators that exist are 1) the gross domestic product or economic growth indicator; 2) the volume of currency in circulation—these two figures clearly play a key role in our country because within them inflation can be identified; and 3) the distribution of income, which can establish social justice in our country.

All the indicators given were falling before the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989]. For example gross domestic product decreased 10 percent compared to the year 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979]. If we look at this on a per capita basis, the per capita gross domestic product for each Iranian has decreased by half, meaning it has fallen from somewhere around 10,800 tomans to 5,800 tomans. This decline that was followed, in the year 1367, 5.7 percent of our gross domestic product was negative. In 1368, the year that was the beginning of the plan, but many of the concepts that were in the plan, many of its instances were being applied and progressing. For the first time since the triumph of the revolution the gross domestic product curve which was dropping went up four percent.

He announced the industrial products for the first seven months of the year 1369 as follows:

Tires and vehicles, 51 percent; paper 39 percent; vegetable shortening, 18 percent; cement 13 percent; glass 37 percent; household refrigerators and freezers 89 percent; black and white televisions 91 percent; laundry detergent 49 percent, and other things. In the area of heavy industries: Light and heavy trucks, 69 percent, various minivans, 122 percent, aluminum foil 305 percent, various kinds of steel profiles and pipes, 243 percent, agricultural motors, 66 percent.

Continuing, he noted: One of the basic indicators is gross domestic production, which grew a little in the year 1368, but in the year 1369, to the extent that we have figures available for these few months, shows that the basis of the plan has been achieved in this area.

Mr. Alviri discussed the high volume of currency in circulation in the years 1369 and 1368. He said: The volume of currency in circulation grew continuously after the triumph of the revolution because of the successive budget deficits the government has had and the necessity to print money in support of them. Our budget deficit went from 36.5 billion tomans in the year 1357 to 212 billion tomans in the year 1367. These budget deficits, which in and of themselves would raise the currency in circulation if collected, create a great volume of currency in circulation on the order of 1,900 billion tomans. This volume of currency in circulation, in view of the decline in production, created conditions where he had a high rate of inflation and a scandalous difference between the government price and the unofficial price of goods. The volume of currency in circulation grew an average of 15.3 percent in the last five years, meaning from 1362 to 1367 [21 March 1983-20 March 1989]. In the plan it was expected that this rapid growth in currency in circulation would be anchored by reducing the government's budget deficit, and this year we will borrow 120 billion tomans from the Central Bank. Naturally these things will cause growth in the currency in circulation in society. This growth in currency in circulation is also specified in the plan, and it is gradually being anchored.

He continued: Why must we borrow? The reason is the great amount of currency in circulation within the country, and opposite that is the very small production of goods. Statistics show that the volume of currency in circulation in the year 1352 [21 March 1973-20 March 1974] was 80 billion tomans, while in the year 1368 this figure reached 1,300 billion tomans. When gross domestic product is small and there is no change, when the volume of currency in circulation multiplies 20-fold, the result is that prices will multiply 20-fold.

He added: In the first six months of the current year growth in currency in circulation has reached 8.4 percent, meaning that the growth in currency in circulation has begun to decline, and more interesting is the fact that its composition has become interesting and appropriate. Long-term bank deposits are the best form on which the banking system can plan, and this is something that has been put in place this year. Meaning the currency in circulation in this way has grown 8.4 percent, and 3.3 percent of the volume of currency notes and coins in the hands of individuals has decreased, and opposite that 11.3 percent of the volume of deposits by individuals has increased. Meaning in reality, because of the faith the people have in the totality of the government and the banking system, the volume of deposits has increased continuously, and the coins and currency in the hands of individuals have decreased. Likewise, since the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September 1990] the volume of demand deposits, savings accounts and short-term investments has decreased, and the investment draw is long-term. A total of 296 billion rials in short-term and demand deposits has been rotated and moved to long-term deposits, and this creates the power and possibility for banks where they can make policy and plan.

The chief of the Plan and Budget Committee discussed the sale of foreign exchange at high and competitive prices. He said:

Formerly the government sold the dollar at 70 rials. You and I know that there are scandalous differences between prices (meaning between the 70 rial dollar and unregulated foreign exchange). Who benefits from the difference between these figures? If we produce color televisions with seven-toman foreign exchange, if we produce automobiles with seven-toman foreign exchange, who will use it? You see that many of these instances were people who were connected in some way and were able to obtain the goods in some way and obtain these goods immediately. In many cases they were not used, and were sold on the free market.

He noted: There were no regulations in society to the effect that since a person was rich or poor, seven-toman dollars would not be sold. It is possible that some people would use these dollars to become somewhat wealthy and rich and others would just look. Therefore, for what reason would we come and sell this foreign exchange to private individuals, all of whom are rich?

Mr. Alviri also noted: As a single point of view, I am opposed to the system of several prices for foreign exchange, and I believe that the country must necessarily go in the direction of adjustable foreign exchange, and the condition of this situation is dangerous for our economy.

Concerning the government's foreign exchange policy, he said: This policy appears logical, and more importantly, this policy holds down the budget deficit. Meaning the best policy that the government could adopt and there was no other way, was this very government procedure where it was able to sell dollars at a higher price as competitive foreign exchange to the production units, and put the revenue from the difference into the government and the nation's pocket. When it goes into the government's policy, at that point the Majles can make decisions about where to invest this money.

Concerning the distribution of revenue, the chief of the Plan and Budget Committee said: The indicator that shows the distribution of revenue has become much better. Of course we are a long way from that sound economic state that we ought to have, and we have really moved in the direction of leveling and trimming the mountains of wealth and reducing the class divisions.

Continuing his discussion, he concluded: The economic indicators indicate that our ailing economy is getting better, and in general the government's economic accomplishments in the year 1369 and its expectations for the year 1370 are hopeful. Concluding his remarks, Mr. Alviri said: At the same time, towards expediting rebuilding the nation's economy and achieving the aims of the Five-Year plan, I offer the following memos:

1 - It is necessary that a sound atmosphere be created for political activities so that all forces believing in the Islamic revolution will be able to take part with full enthusiasm in the nation's reconstruction. Next year we will have before us the elections of the councils and the Majles. We must all seek to prevent a repeat of the unsound atmosphere that developed during the elections to the Assembly of Experts, for in that event severe damage would be done to the nation's economy.

2 - Our revolution is Islamic, and based on the principle of the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult we must create conditions where the theology of His Holiness the Imam (may his grave be sanctified) from within which emerges the form of the government, the principle of the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult and the commands of the government, will warm the seminaries and the government. Inattention to this matter will make views and ways of thinking dominant in the seminaries and they will lose their system of ideological backing. In this regard I call upon the officials to create conditions where the letter from his holiness the imam dated 1/8/68 [October 30 1989] will be realized and the people will be able to make use of the theological views of the great source of emulation and brave crusader His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. Let us note that economic planning in our nation is quite difficult without theological backing.

3 - One of the aims of the Five-Year Plan is to change the pattern of consumption, and this must be shown serious favor. Under conditions of reconstruction we must not promise welfare to the people. By changing the pattern of consumption, we must allocate a greater share of the gross domestic product to investment. Inclinations towards welfare at the reconstruction phase are termites that will topple the tree of independence and self-sufficiency. The Friday prayer pulpits and the interviews with officials at this sensitive stage must call upon the people to economize and make do, so fundamental investments may be made with public satisfaction.

4 - To realize the Five-Year Plan and to improve the nation's economic situation it is necessary that decisions be made through legal executive channels. I humbly call upon the government, now that a decisive majority of the the Majles deputies support the government, and if there is opposition it is done with good will, to refrain from obtaining special authorizations in cases where a Majles vote is needed. Although authorizations of this type can solve the government's problems of today, because they are not coordinated with the aggregate of decisions made, will create problems for the government tomorrow.

After the comments from Mr. Alviri and following the protests of some deputies, the session chairman Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat said in a speech:

I must make this statement especially. The types of memos from our brothers (Mr. Alviri, you also pay attention) must not be such that they will think this forum is for a series of political activities. This forum is for the Majles and for law-making. If a deputy expresses a viewpoint, it is his own, and these memos from the brothers truly must be such that the nature of the talks by the brothers will not make problems for us in terms of the guidelines. They were handing me notes saying, why didn't you stop what Mr. Alviri was saying? Mr. Alviri had a paragraph a half a line long, he read it, finished, then came back with regard to budget issues. This was why I couldn't stop him under the guidelines. However, this expression of views was his own, and I have taken full note of these memos from the sisters and brothers.

Seyyed Hasan al-Hoseyni (opponent)

The final opponent to the 1370 budget bill was Mr. al-Hoseyni, Arak deputy. He said: The budget bill is not a proposal about costs and revenues in conformity with the Five-Year Plan. This budget has nothing essential to counter inflation and it adds to high prices every day. High prices are caused by the sale of unregulated foreign exchange, the unaccounted self-help that the cities and some ministries have done, those covered by Note 15 and costs in excess of the public expenditure law and the national employment law.

He added: There are about 2,500 companies and non-profit organizations affiliated with the government in the country who work, and we have covered a few of them. In cases where it has been validated based on Note 33 of the Five-Year Plan and Note 2 of the budget law of 1369, company budgets can come to the Majles. The destructive role the companies play in raising prices is completely established and clear.

He added: The report from the public expenditure tribunal states that some of the revenues that are for replacing machinery and fixed installations, taxes and profits of government shares are all going into the hands of the companies and directors of companies, and are being spent to buy real estate, investments and unnecessary payments, and this helps increase the existing currency in circulation in the country, and it helps inflation and high prices.

Eshaq Jahangiri (proponent)

The final supporter of the 1370 budget bill was Mr. Eshaq Jahangiri. He said: The annual budget is not the entire economy. The entire economy is the aggregate of public activity, the government companies, the private sector which has a wide role in our nation's economy, and the banking system.

After the revolution, due to the economic embargo, the war, and the other actions required by the revolution, we adopted a policy of economic stabilization, which gave greater importance than ever to the budget.

He said: In conditions of economic crisis, the best thing to do was to free the people from heavy economic pressures, adopting policies of economic stabilization, including rationing goods, and now, after the conditions

of economic stabilization, the government is moving in the direction of a system of economic adjustment.

The trend of economic adjustment is a topic on which planners and economists must give their views, and if this does not occur, we will be faced with severe economic crises.

He added: The most important factor for moving in the direction of economic adjustment is "national resolve and public action to rebuild and save the country." With our rich and Islamic culture, we can move ahead of the other nations which have been in these circumstances, and do things where all classes will feel that they have a share in the reconstruction.

He added: Because it is the first experiment, our nation's Five-Year Economic, Social and Cultural Expansion Plan needs reform, but even so the planners can open the way for the officials so they will know the framework of the work.

The plan contains statistics and workable figures for achieving the stated goals.

Mr. Eshaq Jahangiri added: Today one of the indicators of agreement between the ministers and other officials is the implementation of this Five-Year Plan. If they have been successful in reaching the goals of the plan, they will be known as strong and successful officials, and otherwise they will be unsuccessful.

'Ali 'Abdol'alizadeh (Plan and Budget Committee secretary)

After 10 hours of comments from supporters and opponents of the 1370 budget bill, the secretary from the Plan and Budget Committee gave a talk to offer explanations and answer the objections and problems raised by opponents.

Some of the brothers have criticized Note 15 and authorizing the costs of some projects and operations expenses outside the public expenditure law. In the year 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] a law was enacted on how to spend the budget allocations which under the law are exceptions to the public ependiture law, and based on that law we have made exceptions of some costs. We have two kinds of laws for spending the allocated funds: 1) the public expenditure law, and 2) the law that was enacted in 1364. Therefore Note 15 of the budget bill is not illegal, it is a sound action since some budget allocations are not workable in the form of the public expenditure law.

Continuing, he said: Another point that must be considered, is the public expenditure law so comprehensive that it covers all projects? I acknowledge that this law does not have the scope to be able to break down the costs. If this law can break down the costs, it would require much deliberation. Therefore, Note 15 is aimed at expediting the implementation of the plan and the budget bill.

The committee secretary answered the objections of the opponents who said why did you increase the development budget allocations. He said:

Our nation's capacity for action is more than these budget allocations. If we did not put money into this work in previous years, it is not because we did not have the capability, but because of the war and the problems arising from it. Therefore the amount that we allocated is less than that of the nation's capability. God willing, the development budget allocations will be able to be on a footing with the nation's physical scale, and will cause employment to be created in the country.

He discussed the use of oil sale revenues to cover the operations budget. He emphasized: The opponents have put their finger on this issue and in my view it is correct. This is entirely a weakness and a pain that we accept. However, if we want to take non-oil revenues into consideration, don't customs duties and revenues from the sale of cigarettes go back to oil? If these revenues go back to oil revenues, we must move towards reforming the nation's taxes to avoid these pains.

Mr. 'Abdol'alizadeh enumerated the tax revenues and their role in the totality of revenues. He said:

In the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] our tax revenues were 1,032 billion rials. Our total revenues in that year including loans and foreign exchange sales was 4,121 billion rials. That is, taxes made up 25 percent of our revenues, and if we figure that without the sale of foreign exchange and the budget deficit, taxes are 48.5 percent of the total.

In the year 1367 our tax revenues were 988 billion rials, and our total revenues were 4,747 rials, and this includes borrowing and the sale of foreign exchange. That is, taxes made up 21 percent of the total, and if we figure that without borrowing, the budget deficit and the sale of foreign exchange, taxes were 50.4 percent of the total.

In the year 1367 [as published] the nation's tax revenues were 1,188 billion rials, and the nation's total revenues not including borrowing and the sale of foreign exchange were 2,436 billion rials, 48 percent of which was taxes. Likewise, in the first nine months of the current year [21 March-21 December 1990] taxes made up 50 percent of the nation's revenue. In the year 1370 we expect taxes to make up 52.6 percent of the nation's total revenue, not including borrowing and the sale of foreign exchange, or slightly more than anticipated in the Five-Year Plan. If we figure in the budget deficit (borrowing) and the sale of foreign exchange, these two lines make up 32 percent of the budget. Continuing, he noted: If we add in the sale of foreign exchange and figure the tax percentage of the nation's total revenue, it makes 46 percent, and if we act wisely and say that the sale of foreign exchange is a kind of indirect taxation and that revenue from the sale of foreign exchange must be seen in the tax column, and if we add it again, taxes make up 61 percent of the nation's total revenues.

The committee secretary then discussed the matter of borrowing. He said: One of the opponents said that one of the budget's positive points which was rejected in committee, is borrowing. That is, the government lowered the figure for borrowing, but the committee increased it. Borrowing for the year 1370 in terms of its essence and role in the budget is much less than the ceiling in the plan. The reason is that in the Five-Year Plan we projected a revenue figure of 4,721 billion rials for the year 1370, of which 1,344 billion rials is borrowing. Consequently, 28.5 percent of the revenues come from borrowing. If the committee sets a total of 7,172 billion rials in revenues with 1,344 billion for borrowing, this means the percent borrowed is 18.7. It is therefore proper for us to change it in terms of figures and numbers, but in terms of the role of borrowing in the Budget Bill, the role of borrowing plays a much weaker and smaller role than that provided in the plan.

He then discussed the reason for the transfer of revenue from oil sales to a row outside oil and gas revenues. He said: If we had presented what the government did verbatim to the Majles and then if the respected Majles had approved it, you would have effectively approved a law that would weaken the rial and would change the rate of the rial against the dollar. That is, you would be saying, in return for $14 billion in oil revenues, there would be so many rials. That is, this rial divided into this dollar is the value of the dollar, about 24.5 tomans. Therefore the nation's official basis for computing foreign exchange would no longer be seven tomans, you would have had to say 24 tomans. We came and sincerely met with the Majles and said if the goal is that we will change the price of the rial against the dollar and weaken the value of the nation's national currency, that ought to be said plainly to the Majles. If the government wants to change the value of the rial against the dollar, if it needs Majles approval, it ought to bring it to the Majles in a bill to for a decision, and otherwise it would decide and act itself.

Roghani-Zanjani, Chief of the Plan and Budget Organization

Then Mr. Roghani-Zanjani, chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, spoke in defense of the budget bill. In answer to the criticism of opponents who said the budget bill does not comply with the figures and numbers in the Five-Year Plan, he said: This matter was criticized by the opponents because of the enormity of the budget and its application to the plan. If we agree that the importantant thing to us is the goals of the Five-Year Plan, the matter will be acceptable. None of the opponents said whether or not this bill meets the goals of the Five-Year Plan. Are they saying that the budget will keep us from reaching the goals of the Five-Year Plan? Under the plan the government could have submitted a budget with 1,343 billion rials in borrowing to the Majles, with Majles authorization, yet the government's borrowing is 1,103 billion rials. The government has set the ceiling for borrowing lower than the plan. The opponents made no reference to this positive point and its effects on the economy.

The chief of the Plan and Budget Organization said: In the specialist committees where the budgets for each sector are studied, the proposals submitted were definitely even higher than the ceilings in the Five-Year Plan, and in some committees the projects proposed went beyond the projects in the plan.

Concerning the make-up of revenues, he said: The make-up of revenues in the budget must be true indicators of the nation's economy, and if it is not this way and we cannot get an indication, we will make a mistake in the decision-making process.

Mr. Roghani-Zanjani noted: When tax exemptions are given, this indicator declines. It is possible that even now the tax take from the gross national product is six percent, but the figures in the budget show 4.3 percent, and for this reason we say to the minister of economic and financial affairs, why aren't taxes collected? Yet the problem really is that an indication is not being taken. Based on an analysis that has been prepared of the government companies budget, they have been exempted from paying 255 billion rials in taxes, and this figure does not come out on the taxes and is not reflected here. Taxes cannot be collected beyond the existing limit. If taxes go beyond the limit of the economy, it will have economic effects on investments. The agricultural sector is being exempted so we can give an indication to people who wish to invest that they should invest because of the exemption, the low risk and the high return on capital in these areas.

Mr. Roghani-Zanjani, chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, emphasized: When the true value of oil revenues is not reflected in the budget, we think that the ratio of taxes to revenues is to the benefit of others, either we see the reality and we do not wish to accept it, or we do not see the reality. If we do not see it, we must reach a mutual understanding through theory and thought.

He said: The price of foreign exchange, which is 70 rials for administrative reasons, is sold at 70 rials after leaving the Central Bank to any person or any ideology it may reach. Is foreign exchange that comes back from a trip sent to the Central Bank? Or is it sold to someone who buys it at a higher price? Economic behavior conforms to realities outside the economy. One cannot say, for God's sake, you must not engage in immoral and religiously unlawful acts. Yes, if someone wishes to sacrifice, he will sell foreign exchange for 70 rials, but what is the usual practice? In 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] or 1364 the government was authorized to sell some 70-rial foreign exchange on the free market at a price it would itself designate, and figure that in with other revenues. What is the essence and source of this revenue? Does it come from economic activity, innovation and investment? The roots of this go back to oil foreign exchange.

There is a managed foreign exchange market controlled by the government, and the government has set a compulsory price of 70 rials for every dollar, yet the government itself has created other markets. The price of the dollar for the traveler is 200 rials, to import certain goods it is 405 rials, and for importing other goods it is 800 rials. Is the price 70 rials? There is another market where every dollar is 1,400 rials. Foreign exchange, like other economic goods, has its own market, and it follows the logic of the market. If we do not take note of this point and if we do not understand it properly, the price of the national currency cannot be fixed by political and administrative force. One cannot approach the economy and economic activity with administrative logic. Foreign exchange imposes its price for economic reasons. Foreign exchange is like all goods, the more of it there is on the market, the more the price falls. The more the demand for foreign exchange increases, the higher its price, causing a fall in the value of the national currency. If foreign exchange is not produced inside the economy and if it follows oil revenues, the direction of foreign exchange on the market is damaged.

He added: In the past 240 yen were traded for one dollar, and now the price has reached 140 yen. This pricing was not done by order of the Central Bank of Japan. It was the economic power of Japan that did this. The topic must therefore be approached with economic logic. If the economy reaches its own point of adjustment and logic, at that point our economic power will begin. Foreign exchange must be saved from administrative control. When foreign exchange is rationed, the final price of foreign exchange will not be important to the organizations. They are seeking to use foreign exchange at any price.

The chief of the Plan and Budget Organization discussed the government companies. He said: The government is required to do things that consist of: improving the structure and management of the government companies, eliminating all tax and customs exemptions, setting a decisive level of government assets, shares and finances in the government companies and reporting on budget reforms in government companies to the Majles, including the budgets of all companies that have more than 51 percent government-owned shares. Measures have been taken with regard to these matters. These companies have 255 billion rials in tax exemptions, meaning they receive a hidden subsidy, and the true value of the goods of these units for this reason is not being stipulated. There are about 1,500 companies in the government sector, the banks and the public sectors which have not been classified, and about 400 units have been approved to sell on the stock exchange so they can go into operation on the government's recommendation. The structure of the stock market has been studied, and the Central Bank is working to reform its structure.

According to Mr. Roghani-Zanjani, one of the problems of the government companies occurs when there are no accounting books, and the reason for that has been the restricted law which governs the Audit Agency. This agency is not empowered to investigate, no matter what they say. In the name of the Plan and Budget Organization, I say that they cannot investigate. In cooperation with the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs, a single-article proposal is being submitted to the Majles in which expert accountants will form companies. They will do this with their competence certified and their abilities will also be utilized. With this measure, it will be possible to bring accounts up to date. In the proposal the government has presented, 33 percent of the shares of the factories will be sold to workers, and the rest will be sold on the stock market.

Concerning the public expenditure law, he noted: To whatever extent a law that is passed does not conform to the external behavior for which it is designed, to that extent its implementation will be avoided. In the year 1366 when the public expenditure law was being enacted, all the ministers were opposed to it and believed it would create problems for them. At that very time we said the law would not be implemented. In any case the law was enacted and the Majles has the option to study the proposal that is outside the public expenditure law. The specialist committees also continually enlarge the list of items outside the public expenditure law, and this is proper and correct in its place. It is hoped that a law will be compiled that conforms to reality and organizes budget cost behavior so we will not need to increase the exceptions in this law. Continuing this process the exceptions will exceed the rule and this shows that this law is no answer.

Mr. Roghani-Zanjani, chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, emphasized: There is a flaw in the logic that says operations budget is always bad. Since the classification system does not permit us to put education and training and higher education costs in with development costs, we made them part of the operations budget. For this reason, attention should be paid to the large items in the operations budget. For example 1,200 billion rials has been provided for the armed forces, 1,300 billion rials for education and training, 200 billion rials for the universities and more than 200 billion rials for the police forces. If we do not consider these figures acceptable, we can reduce them.

Concerning the reasons for increasing the operations budget, he said: About 157 billion rials has been added to education and training because of Majles legislation. One item alone about the law of employment of those obligated to work for the government has caused a financial burden of about 41 billion rials. Likewise the increase in teacher fees and hardship duty pay on various rows carried a tax burden of 22 billion rials. The law increasing professor wages in higher education also raised the tax load close to 46 billion rials. These figures have inflated the operations budget. If we want to decrease operations budget, first we ought to suspend the laws.

Ratifications.

After the overall national budget for 1370 was approved, the Majles took up the details of the bill.

Note 1 - The amount of imprest in the treasury in 1370 is 300 billion rials. Concerning this note a number of deputies sought to substitute the government's ceiling on borrowing for the ceiling on borrowing proposed by the Plan and Budget Committee, which increased the figure, which was approved by the deputies in the following form:

The maximum borrowing from the central bank is 970 billion rials.

Note 2 - A - Authorization is given to the General Assembly or the Supreme Council of Companies and Banks and the profit-making institutions in part 8 of this law, on the basis of the policies of the government or the law forming the aforementioned companies and institutions, to take out loans to increase the means of production carry on other basic activities of the company or the profit-making institution, or if due to the exigencies caused by price fluctuations or following other economic and tax changes they change the figures in the budget enacted in 1370 for the companies or profit-making institutions mentioned in part 8 of this law, observing the law of first economic, social and cultural expansion plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the regulations in the charter being acted upon, on the condition that first these changes do not lower the tax figures and dividends on government profits provided in the aforementioned table and second that the changes do not increase the level of use by the company or the profit-making institution of the government's development budget. At the time their balance sheets, working figures and profits and losses are prepared and approved, the general associations of the companies and institutions mentioned in this paragraph must submit the report prepared by the company on applying the operations of the company with the approved budget, and after the investigation and legal examination is submitted to the association, it must be evaluated and the necessary decisions must be made.

To create resources for implementing the provisions of Note 33 of the first expansion lan, all government companies and police institutions must send to the Plan and Budget Organization the changes given in this paragraph of the note (the amended budgets approved by the general assemblies) in the framework of the first expansion plan, along with the necessary justification report. The chiefs of the general associations of the government companies are responsible for implementing this paragraph.

B - All the government companies in Article 4 of the national public expenditure law, the banks and the profit-making institutions affiliated with the government, and the other government companies and profit-making institutions who must be mentioned by name to be included in public laws and regulations, including the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the National Iranian Oil Company and affiliated companies and the other companies attached to the Ministry of Oil, the Iranian Industries Expansion and Reconstruction Organization and its attached companies and the centers for procuring and distribution in the Iran National Industries Organization, are also included in this note.

Two Majles deputies will attend meetings of the Economic Council as supervisors, for the sake of the quality of the foreign contracts in all the government companies and the organizations in Paragraph B of this note.

C - In implementing Note 32 of the Five-Year Economic, Social and Cultural Expansion Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as of the year 1370 the payment of aid for losses to the government companies out of the government's general revenues will require the submission of a letter of agreement with the Plan and Budget Organization. All the chiefs of the general associations of the government companies and officials in such government companies must take measures to permit submission of the letter of agreement mentioned in the framework of the budget of 1370 for deficit government companies during the classification of profit-making and non-profit-making activities arising from the implementation of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's public policies.

D - In implementing the points in Note 33 of the Five-Year Economic, Social and Cultural Expansion Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the committee responsible for implementing this note, which is formed under the supervision of the president of the republic, no later than the end of the month of Shahrivar in the current year [22 September] submit a report on the progress of the work on the aforementioned note, and it must propose the legal requirements for implementing it as precisely as possible to the Plan and Budget Committee, the committees on economic and financial affairs and the Majles public expenditure tribunal to make it possible to make the necessary arrangements in the budget for government companies in normal years and in the plan.

E - The acting director and the board of directors of the institutions and companies which do not implement the provisions of this note in the time period specified are in violation and will be charged with illegal expenditure of government funds.

At yesterday's afternoon Majles session, Mr. Hashemiyan, the speaker, said: A number of deputies set a triple priority on the study of the situation in the Persian Gulf Crisis. The exalted leader said: The Majles has called upon the Foreign Ministry and the Supreme National Security Council to inform the deputies of conditions in the region and decisions. He added: Therefore tomorrow morning (today) the Majles will meet in closed session and study the problems in the region with the members of the Supreme National Security Council.

19 Jan Session

91AS0475A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
20 Jan 91 p 5

[Text] Legal and Parliamentary Section - Open sessions of the Majles were held yesterday morning and afternoon.

In this session, after remarks by deputies from Qom and Mashhad as pre-agenda speakers, the Majles began its deliberations and continued with the investigation of the remaining notes of the budget bill for the year 1370 [starting 21 Mar 1991].

Sadeq Khalkhali, the representative of the people of Qom

Mr. Khalkhali, the representative of the people of Qom was the first pre-agenda speaker. At the outset of his remarks, in connection with the attack by American and multi-national forces on Iraq he stated:

The beastly attack of America with the excuse of Iraq's transgression against Kuwait is a cover to hide the facts and realities. The consideration to which America subscribes is not oil and the immense power of Iraq but to protect Jews and the decrepit government of Israel.

He said: We had planned to march on Friday, in continuation of the tradition of the days of the imam. I contacted the Qom Governorate. They said: "This matter has been forbidden by the Supreme Council of National Security." This is a clear example of oppression. Mr. Khalkhali added: We always cried out "Death to America, death to Israel". Now we must implement these slogans.

Mr. Khalkhali said: One of our Majles deputies was telling us that our guys had gathered in the sacred shrine of Qom. One was saying that, "I shall pray for the victory of Islam." The mother of three martyrs was praying for destruction of America and victory of the Iraqi nation. Gentlemen, the Iraqi nation is at stake. The same situation existed during the World War I and our scholars, such as Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Taqi Khansari and Seyyed Abolqasem Kashani, took up arms and fought against the British. This was why they were exiled to Burma.

Now is the same situation. O ayatollah, our exalted leader, Mr. Khamene'i (God's peace upon you), in line with your own assertion, issue the order of jihad against America because getting killed in the path of Islam will advance the cause of Islam and that is the aspiration which we always take into consideration.

Mr. Khalkhali also said: I swear to God that if America is victorious and establishes a foothold next to Iran, it will not easily leave the region. The presence of America is like a wolf—even though in a cage—next to a lamb.

In conclusion, Mr. Khalkhali said: Fahd seeks to protect his rule and Husni Mubarak and treacherous Hafiz al-Asad mean to do the same. They must know that as components of the great Islamic nation, from Pakistan and Indonesia to Algeria and Morocco, we are all in the same line and fight for the dignity of Islam.

After the speech of Mr. Khalkhali, the speaker of the Majles responded to his assertions concerning the views of the Supreme Council of National Security and said: I was present at the meeting of the Supreme Council of National Security. The assertion that marches were forbidden, such a matter was not discussed at the council meeting. On the contrary, it was said that groups that wish to demonstrate against America are authorized to do so and there is no opposition to this matter.

Salehabadi, the representative of the people of Mashhad

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Salehabadi, the representative of the people of Mashhad who—after praising the martyrdom of the great revolutionary, martyr Navab Safavi—referred to the recent Persian Gulf crisis and the beastly deployment of American forces and its allies and said:

One hundred seventy days have passed since the occupation of Kuwait by the government of Iraq. Although transgression of any country against another is condemned and internationally recognized boarders must be respected by all countries of the world, occupation of Kuwait caused that forces of NATO and, especially, America to be deployed in the region to restore the lost honor of the filthy al-Sabah clan, establish dominance over oil reserves and ensure the security of the mercenary and subordinate rulers of the region—especially Saudi Arabia and Israel. From the early morning hours of Thursday 17 Jan 1990 savage attacks of multinational forces, led by the world-devouring America, against crucial human and economic resources and centers of Iraq started. As reflected in the Western media, these attacks have not been successful. Because the strategy of America and its allies in the first phase was complete destruction of military and human resources and overthrow of the ruling regime of Baghdad in 48 hours, when, in effect, this was not achieved it resulted in the weakening of the multinational forces in the region.

The Mashhad deputy considered the main objectives of Americans for their deployment in the region and starting the war as guaranteeing the long term interests of that country and other Western countries and added: In this connection, in addition to gaining total control of oil reserves of the region, these countries aim to alter the political geography of the region and destroy its independent governments—including the Islamic Republic of Iran.

By emphasizing the need for the vigilance of the people and officials, he said: If the goal of Americans and multinational forces is to defend the innocent and repel the cruel, then how come all this time and in the contemporary age the opposite of this claim has been implemented in various parts of the world and, especially, in the Middle East? Americans were the main culprits contributing to the formation of the usurping

country of Israel. The territory of Israel expanded during the years 1967, 1973 and in recent years as a result of them. In the past year, the American President, Bush, mentioned the Greater Israel spreading from Euphrates to Nile. How come at that time America and the United Nations did not rise in support of the innocent and Palestinians?

He then said: When the first missile was struck in Tel Aviv, the filthy capital of Israel, it brought much hope to the hearts of Muslims and consequent explosions strengthened the hope in the minds of Muslims for realization of the long-held wish of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran who said: "Israel must be wiped out from the face of the earth and the map". We hope that these missile attacks against the oil resources, crucial interests and military sources of Israel continues. Every missile that strikes it Israel is as if striking the White House in Washington and we are witnessing that millions all across the world are being mobilized against America and Israel. This good tidings must be given to all Muslims that, since the first time when missiles struck Israel, citizens of Israel have been fleeing Tel Aviv, Haifa and Akka in great numbers. From the fear of Hezbollah, the revolutionary and Muslim forces, American Embassy and consulate in Beirut have been closed down like the year 63 [starting 21 Mar 1984] and Americans have chosen to flee.

Ratifications of the Majles

The only item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was the continuation of deliberations of the national budget bill for the year 1370. After debates, study and acceptance of some of the suggestions—Notes 3, 4 and 5 were approved by deputies as described below:

Note 3

A. Within the framework of national monetary policies and in adherence to the first plan, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is duty bound to provide the required credit facilities for plans which have been drawn up for and effect the following areas: manufacturing, self-employment, technical and rural services, handicraft, storage construction, transformation of industries, agricultural industries, reconstruction, renovation of traditional animal husbandry facilities, natural resources, research, scientific education, health, cultural, artistic, sports and tourism activities which can be fully justified economically, technically and financially but do not meet the requirements of the agent banks with regards to adequate security and share of investment. These credit facilities shall be secured from domestic resources of the aforementioned banks. However, in case of inadequacy of these facilities, they shall be secured from resources of other banks.

The maximum credit facility under this note shall be 250 billion rials. Fifty percent of this sum shall be allocated for creation of jobs and employment of self-sacrificers (former POW's, disabled veterans, combatants and the exalted families of martyrs, MIA's and POW's) and refugees of the imposed war in the war-stricken provinces.

At least 30 percent of the facilities under this note shall be allocated for activities in the deprived sectors of the country.

The government is duty bound to pledge to pay up to six percent service charges and interests for the following items:

-Projects on water streams and the national water and soil programs.
-All projects concerning self-sacrificers.
-All projects pertaining to refugees of the imposed war in war-stricken provinces.
-All projects for the country's deprived counties and villages.

The implemetation guidelines for this item shall be proposed jointly by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Plan and Budget Organization, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance. It shall include all activities including distribution of credit facilities and guidelines and conditions for granting them credits. The implementation guidelines shall be prepared by the end of the month of Esfand 1369 [20 March 1990] and shall be ratified by the council of ministers.

B. The Plan and Budget Organization shall include in the national budget—within maximum five years and upon recommendation of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran—the difference in the service charges share of the government and the remainder of suspended payments not received as a result of implementation of such supervised projects which the necessity for granting them credits have been approved by the council of ministers.

The aforementioned guarantee does not negate the duties of banks for collection of late loans as a result of granting such facilities. Beneficiaries of credit facilities subject of this note are obligated to pay back bank loans and failure to do so shall be construed as illegal possession of funds and property belonging to the government.

The allocated credits in rows 601025 and 702104, accordingly—for the payment of the difference in service charges, the special profits share of the government and late payments not received as a result of implementation of Note 33 of the 1359 [year starting 21 March 1980] national budget law and Note 3 for the years 1360 [starting 21 March 1981] until 1369 [starting 21 March 1990]—shall be payable upon recommendation of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and approval of the Plan and Budget Organization.

-The credit indicated in item 702103 is for the purpose of payment of the difference in service charges, the special government profit and suspended payments not received as a result of the granting of the 50 billion rials

loan by Bank-e Sepah for implementation of the law of employment of jobless graduates. This shall be payable upon the announcement of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and recommendation of the Plan and Budget Organization.

-The credit indicated in item 503150 shall be put at the disposal of the centers for expansion of manufacturing and development services for the purpose of drawing up projects with full economic, technical and financial justification to benefit self-sacrificers.

-The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is obligated to charge the minimum approved interest rate and service charges for facilities provided in this note.

C. In coordination with the Center for Expansion of Manufacturing and Development Services and after necessary studies, Bank-e Sepah is obligated to sell—in accordance with the regulations and by signing contracts—all or part of the belongings of cooperative companies under the umbrella of provincial centers for expansion of manufacturing and development services which are incapable of paying back the received loan. The proceeds of such sales, in addition to the assets and accounts receivable of said companies and belongings of shareholders of such companies and proceeds from the sale of their belongings shall be used by Bank-e Sepah to recoup the loans and recover what is due the government.

In case the sum total of the proceeds—as a result of the aforementioned activities—does not suffice the complete repayment of the bank loan, the Plan and Budget Organization is obligated to pay the remainder of the unpaid portion—the payment of which has been suspended—in accordance with the presented documents and evidence by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the proceeds of the aforementioned items in Paragraph A.

-Concerning the payment of government obligations resulting from this note in previous years, maximum two years after the last installment paid by the beneficiary of the loan shall be considered as the basis for calculation of interest and service charges by the bank. Any addition to this shall be considered as bank delays in the recovery of legal payments and shall not be included in bank claims against the government.

The Center for Expansion of Manufacturing Cooperatives is obligated to put at the disposal of Bank-e Sepah all documents, contracts, papers, obligations and information in its possession pertaining to these cooperatives and their shareholders in order to provide the facilities for collection of loans.

Cooperative companies under the umbrella of the provincial centers for expansion of manufacturing and development services can remove themselves from the umbrella of expansion centers after full repayment of their debts to the bank on the condition that they pledge to refrain from sale or transfer of their assets for a period of ten years from the date of initial exploitation.

D. Manufacturing and development projects (cooperative or non-cooperative)—at least 80 percent of the participants of which are volunteer combatants, who spent at least six consecutive months or one intermittent year at the front, or exalted families of martyrs, MIA's and POW's (children, spouse, father or mother or brother), disabled veterans, freed POW's and refugees of the imposed war if lacking financial capability per the determination of the Martyr Foundation, the Disabled Veterans Foundation, the Headquarters for the Affairs of Freed POWs or the Foundation for the Refugees of the Imposed War—whichever may be applicable—shall be exempt from the payment of all or part of the shares of applicants. All expenses pertaining to offering services by organizations attached to the government, preparation of plans, obtaining agreements, permits and authorizations, study of plans by banks and other appropriate sources shall be considered as expenses of the plan. The bank is obligated to act and grant loans within maximum one week after the approval of plans of such cooperatives by the Supreme Central Council.

E. Organizations and foundations mentioned in this note are obligated to submit reports of their activities pertaining to this note every four months through the Plan and Budget Organization to the plan and budget committee, and Public Expenditures, Economic, and Finance Tribunal of the Majles.

Note 4 - A. In cases deemed necessary, the government is authorized to guarantee, in adherence to the text of this note, a total sum of 200 billion rials from the sources of interest-free loans and, if inadequate, up to 200 billion rials from other sources in the banking system through the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran to be put at the disposal of the Agricultural Bank [Bank-e Keshavarzi]. The said bank shall make these funds available to be used to advance the objectives of the agricultural sector and rural industries as indicated in the First 5-Year Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed at increasing the production of this sector. These funds are to be made available to fishermen, farmers and members of rural, agricultural, animal husbandry, honey bees, fisheries and tribal cooperatives as well as commonly held manufacturing cooperatives and to be considered as rotating working capital. The unpaid portions of loans shall be included in the national budget for the following year.

The said guarantee shall not negate the duties of banks in regards to collection of suspended and unpaid loans resulting from granting such facilities. Beneficiaries of credit facilities under this note are obligated to pay back bank loans and their failure to do so shall be construed as illegal possession of government funds and property.

A maximum sum of 40 billion rials from credits under this note shall be put at the disposal of specialized organizations attached to ministries of reconstruction

crusade and agriculture for the purpose of obtaining and preparing improved seeds, sperm and equipment needed for fishing and animal husbandry, pesticides and animal husbandry medicines.

B. Fifteen percent of credits under this note shall be allocated for provision and preparation of necessary materials for rug-weaving work-shops. From this, two percent shall be put at the disposal of the Iran Rug Company, seven percent shall be put at the disposal of rug cooperatives—those under the umbrella of the Reconstruction Crusade Ministry—and rug dealers unions, two percent shall be allocated for use by Handicraft Industries Organization, three percent shall be put at the disposal of the Imam's Aid Committee and one percent shall be given to the Welfare Organization to be provided to rug-makers for the needed materials.

C. The implementation guidelines of this note shall be prepared jointly by ministries of industry, commerce, reconstruction crusade, agriculture and Plan and Budget Organization and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran within one month and shall be ratified by the council of ministers.

Note 5 - A: The difference in the amounts received by the Consumers and Producers Protection Agency shall not be subject to income tax.

B. Organizations that receive funds from the Consumers and Producers Protection Agency—for the purpose of purchasing and preparing essential goods and the said funds are provided from the difference in the amounts received which are the subject of Paragraph 10 of Article 7 of the charter of the aforementioned organization—are obligated to return the unused and unallocated funds to the Consumers and Producers Protection Agency by no later than the end of 20 April 1992.

C. In case of avoidance on the part of involved organizations to return the remaining funds which are the subject of Paragraph B and payment of the differences to the Consumers and Producers Protection Agency by the deadline mentioned in the aforementioned paragraph, the Consumers and Producers Protection Agency is duty bound to report the matter to the Plan and Budget Organization and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance. After investigation and confirmation of the claim by the aforementioned organizations, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance is authorized to deduct a sum equivalent to the remainder of the unpaid sum from the bank accounts of the violating organization and deposit that sum in the account of the Consumers and Producers Protection Agency.

D. The Consumers and Producers Protection Agency is obligated to determine annually the amounts paid to every organization and the sums used or returned, each separately, and report these by no later than the end of 21 June 1992 to the Majles committees of plan and budget and economy and finance through the Plan and Budget Organization and, also, inform the Ministry of Economics and Finance.

E. Government organizations that receive funds from the differences in receivables of the Consumers and Producers Protection Agency are obligated to spend the said funds in accordance with the public expenditure laws and other appropriate guidelines unless they retain special financial guidelines, in which case they shall act in accordance with those regulations.

F. In the year 1370 [year starting 21 March 1991], the government is obligated to prepare and announce the pricing of guaranteed agricultural and animal husbandry products in a manner which, in addition to the final cost of products and considering the inflation rate, a suitable profit in line with economic activities in industry and commerce sectors is also considered.

G. Five percent of all incomes earned from the differences in receivables which are the subject of Paragraph 10 of Article 7 of the charter of the Consumers and Producers Protection Agency under the heading of special allocations for the deprived regions, in addition to the provincial and national share of allocations for deprived counties and villages across the country, shall be discounted by 100 percent and shall be allocated for use on rural projects in areas of education and training, health, water, electricity and roads accordingly. The method of distribution and the executive organization in charge under this note will be determined according to the guidelines which will be prepared within 45 days after the ratification of this law by the Plan and Budget Organization and the offices of the deprived regions and approved by the council of ministers.

The Plan and Budget Organization and the Office of Deprived Regions are obligated to report the activities initiated through allocations under this note once every four months to the Majles' committees of plan and budget, public expenditure tribunal, economic affairs and finance, and the revolutionary institutions.

Also, governor generals are obligated to send reports of the special committee tasked with deprived regions in that province and implementation activities related to the aforementioned allocations to the National Office of Deprived Regions, the President's office, and the Majles deputies concerned.

Statement of 140 deputies in connection with the march on Monday

In continuation of yesterday's open session of the Majles the statement of 140 deputies of the Majles in connection with the march scheduled for Monday 21 January 1991 was read:

"So fight ye against the friends of Satan: Feeble indeed is the cunning of Satan." [Koranic verse]

Imam Khomeyni (may his soul be placed in heaven) says: "All our miseries are from America."

The resisting, free and Muslim nation of Iran! Following the declaration of the position of majority of deputies of the Majles in the statement issued on 17 January 1991

and by re-condemning the vicious transgression of American military forces and its European allies against the Islamic land of Iraq, we invite the combatant nation and all the ever present-on-the-scene people—particularly the youth, academicians, educators, workers and guilds—to participate in the march that will be held on Monday for the purpose of condemning the aggression and obvious transgression of the world-monger America and once more declare to the world the decisive decision of the Islamic nation to boot out the Great Satan and its allies from the Islamic region and to destroy the usurping Israel. The march will begin at 14:00 on Monday at the campus of Tehran University toward the direction of the Majles.

20 Jan Session

91AS0524A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Jan 91 p 5

[Excerpt] Legal and Majles Section - The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning and afternoon under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Muslimin Karrubi.

In this session, after the remarks of representatives of Saveh, Arak and Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Muslimin Karrubi, in a short speech, offered his condolences on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of the tenth star in the sky of the velayat and imamate, His Holiness Imam Hadi (God's peace upon him).

The continuation of study of the budget bill was followed up in yesterday's Majles session and a number of notes were ratified.

'Ali Movahedi-Savuji, the representative of the people of Saveh

If Iraq were to leave Kuwait and point its weapons at America and Israel, it shall gain the support of Muslim nations including Iran.

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. 'Ali Movahedi-Savuji from Saveh constituency.

He said: From the outset of the crisis and the Persian Gulf war which began by invasion of Kuwait the Islamic Republic of Iran—on the basis of its objectives, fundamental policies and Islamic, revolutionary and religious principles—has adopted the best possible position in this connection.

It is clear to the world and its citizens the criminal inclination of America, Israel and other colonial and arrogant powers of the world. No doubt, the relentless struggle, animosity and uncompromising attitude of Islam toward heresy and unfriendliness of the Islamic revolution towards aggression, force and injustice is also known to the whole world. The great leader of the revolution, may God's heaven be his sanctuary, from the onset of this divine movement in 1341 [year beginning 21 Mar 1962] until he joined the high heaven, always was the greatest man in jurisprudence, justice, awareness, bravery and struggle. He stood up and fought against injustice, colonization and arrogance in the region which are perpetrated by America and Israel. In this path, the imam, the nation, and the followers of the imam did not show a moment of hesitation. [passage omitted]

Mr. Movahedi-Savuji added: The issue of war between allies and Iraq must be investigated to see what is the nature of this war. Is this a war between right and wrong? Is this a war between Islam and heresy? Is this a war between justice and injustice? If at the outset we recognize the nature and the prevailing motivations of the warring parties, then we can judge as to how best to deal with this war and with which party we should side or determine if we should declare our neutrality.

As long as neither party is right and this is a war between two dogmatic and arrogant powers, world Muslims cannot join any of the two ranks with Islam's and God's consent. However, there is only one exception. I suggest to the Iraqi regime that, if it wishes to have the support of not only the Islamic Republic of Iran but also the world Muslims—Arab and non-Arab—it must retreat from Kuwait as soon as possible and aim its weapons at Israel and America. Only then all Muslims in the region and the world will position themselves against Israel and America and consider themselves party to this war.

In continuation, the speaker pointed out: The aggressive and criminal nature of America is not hidden to anyone. It is clear to all of us that, America, England, France and regional allies did not come here for the sake of God, to support the weak and the people of Kuwait. We know that, it is nearly half a century since the land of Muslim Palestinians have been taken. Parts of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and other places—also belonging to Islam and Muslims—have been taken by Israel. However, neither America nor Russian and England have in any way risen in the defense of the innocent. Indeed, these criminals have always supported the criminal and usurping Israel politically, financially and logistically. This is not hidden from any wise and informed person.

He added: We hope that, with the help of God, this war will have no real victor and the meaning of the sacred Koranic verse—"Verily God will defend (from ill) those who believe"—is true about this war. Believers, Muslims and Muslim nations shall be saved from evils of domestic and regional criminals and foreign aggressors. Today, the dear imam's prediction concerning the support given to the Ba'thist regime of Iraq has come to realization. It means that all those who had a hand in killings, murders, attack and transgression against Iran and the killing of our loved ones have now fallen victims to the same fire which they started themselves.

Gholamreza Fada'i, the representative of the people of Arak

America will not be able to easily save itself from perils of the Persian Gulf region.

Mr. Fada'i, the representative of the people of Arak was the second pre-agenda speaker who, in his remarks, pointed out America's helplessness in rendering the Iraqi war machine useless and said: America will not be able to easily save itself from perils of the Persian Gulf region. The scorching land of Arabia shall become the cemetery of American, English, French and other soldiers.

He added: America must know that, before the will of nations, the most advanced weapons are ineffective. America has thanked Israel for its avoidance to retaliate against Iraq's attacks because it knows that Israel's interference will cause agitation among Muslim Arab nations. Indeed, what noble Islamic and Arab nation may be unaware that the mere existence of usurper Israel is due to support and backing of America and England? Who does not know that Balfur Declaration was conjured up by English leaders? Of course, reactionary Arab governments may ignore this issue, as did the mercenary Sheikh Fahd who committed blasphemy against all that is sacred to Islam and Muslims by inviting America and England into Islamic holy land and, thus, wrote the greatest evidence of shame upon his forehead by turning the protected shrine of God and the Prophet into a base for heretic American, English and French soldiers. Or, Kuwaiti sheikhs who preferred the strategy of escape instead of steadfastness in the hope of returning to claim their right under the protection of heretics.

While condemning the occupation of Kuwait and expressing his pleasure for missile strikes against Israel, Mr. Fada'i said: The world knows that the first great pioneer of combating Israel has been our imam of the nation. In his footsteps, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution and the Muslim nation of Iran is, and has been, the greatest enemy of the usurping Israel.

Mr. Fada'i emphasized: The brave Arab and Muslim nations are like fire under the ashes. They shall rise in due time to answer you Americans and your evil allies. Perhaps, this may serve as a means for awakening Islamic nations to rediscover themselves and to realize the valuable human, petroleum and other resources which exist in this region.

In reference to the day marking the anniversary of the martyrdom of Amir Kabir [legendary Qajar prime minister], he addressed Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and said: You must know that national issues require following up, decisiveness, management and endeavor. I have some questions and request that you try to answer them practically by appointing concerned and knowledgeable persons for investigation and expression of real views in these regards.

1. Has the policy of production increase been realized and, if so, at what cost? Is the ultimate consumer not paying the highest prices? Has there been consideration for the lowest income earners? Why the pricing policy has completely vanished? Should the exchange rate follow the present trend? For how long the unruly price hikes and lack of control will endure? To what extent those who take advantage of competitive foreign exchange rates utilize it to initiate production? Are they not selling their foreign exchange in the market and, thus, joining the rank of dealers instead of partaking in production activities? Is the report by the daily KEYHAN correct in which it is stated that the number of go-betweens have increased from 890,000 in the year 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977] to 3.5 million in the year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987]? Is there a higher corruption than active forces of the country engage in fictitious work and act as go-betweens? Is this not dangerous? Should competitive foreign exchange rates not result in the breaking down of high prices? Has there been not enough time for producers to demonstrate this issue? A clear example of this is machine made rugs. Its price not only did not come down with competitive foreign exchange rates but it actually increased.

In the scope of production, is it sufficient to take the control off of foreign exchange rates and forget all other factors?

In continuation, in reference to the study of the budget bill, he said: Have all the organizations that use the national budget presented their accounting and report of activities? If this is so, then how come during the past several years no analytical and comparative study have not been presented to the Majles? Has there been not an accounting of financial books of government-owned companies that comprise a major part of the budget?

He criticized the utilization of the budget outside the public expenditure law and said: The level of utilization of the budget outside of the public expenditure law from the year 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] to the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] has gone from 14 billion rials to 150 billion rials. The volume of budget allocations outside of the year 1370 public expenditure law has increased 200 percent compared to the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]. Now that over half of the government's budget is outside the public expenditure laws, is it not better for the Majles to consider the whole of the budget outside of the public expenditure laws in order to please the officials with the Majles, simplify the work of the Majles and take away all worries concerning supervision. It is being said that if expenditures are not outside of the public expenditure law all organizations will be paralyzed. However, isn't the inflation being imposed upon the society in this manner paralyzing all organizations? Of course, we regret the role of the Majles which entails less policy-making because—according to the esteemed chairman of the plan and budget committee—deputies show more interest if discussions are about hospitals and public baths rather than wholesale planning, determining the overall strategy of the regime and other such matters.

By posing the question on what is our model in the economic regime and how we plan to achieve the objectives of the Five-Year Plan, the deputy continued: Can anything be done with this unstable, changing and,

wanton management coupled with smeared responsibilities? Mr. president! You know better that, like the era of Amir Kabir, decisiveness is required for execution of affairs. As you have shown such decisiveness in certain phases, organizations must fear the presentation of forged reports and non-compliance with plans. No one should be able to smear responsibilities. They should stand up, give accounting of their activities and, God forbid, stand trial in case of wrongdoings. Certainly, the judicial branch must move along with you. Mr. President, has the respect for contracts not been lost in our country? To what extent should changes be implemented in contract prices stated by contractors? Even then, contractors elude the executive branch of the government. Perhaps the method of this work is incorrect.

The representative of the people of Arak pointed out: As for the industrial capacity of the country, in light of the prevailing weak national management and lack of attention to public servants—especially on the experts level—there is apprehension that contracts, and perhaps even borrowing, will not result in much except the massing of a million or so useless machinery pieces and expenses which will be imposed upon the country without bearing any fruits. Why do you not coordinate and match government executives with the work, needs and performance of government services? Why the expert fabric of the government is being weakened more every day and those who are in charge are treated such that some enjoy the highest incomes while taking advantage of government benefits. Even so, these are the ones who complain the most. How come dedicated forces are not being utilized to perform jobs?

'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the representative of the people of Tehran

All agonies of Muslim nations of the region are perpetrated by the evil triangle of the world arrogance, Zionism and reactionary rulers in the region.

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Mohtashemi, the representative of the people of Tehran. He stated: Today Persian Gulf and countries in the region are burning in the fire and blood brought upon them by the world arrogance led by America (the great Satan). What has perpetrated all this calamity is the world devouring America and mercenary actions of the reactionary rulers in the region. Today the issue is not the past history of Iraq and Iran. It is the American Marines and Western crusaders on the move to destroy the Iraqi war machine and, later, the follow up which is moving against the Islamic Republic of Iran and all liberation movements and strengthening the regime of occupation of Palestine. It is simple-mindedness on behalf of those who think that America has come to the region to repel the transgression of Iraq against Kuwait and after accomplishing this task, it will leave. America has entered the sacred land of Hejaz and Persian Gulf to wage full-scale political and economic war against Muslim nations and to imprison and enslave them in chains. The world heresy led by America has formed a single file to destroy the resources of Muslims. It is much regrettable that some gullible or intimidated persons think that this war is no cause for us and the people to worry. The secretary of defense of America has announced that his country wishes to cut off the roots of the Islamic revolution and the Iranian nation. In light of this attitude, either the Iranian nation and the Islamic revolution have changed or the nature of the world devouring America has changed. Or, perhaps, such an statement about neutrality is an invitation for the people to be indifferent in regards to their fate and Islamic revolution.

He emphasized: The Iranian nation follows the path of the imam and obeys the velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the chief jurisconsult]. The exalted leader considers this era to be the era of Khomeyni and the correct path to be his path. He considers war with America as holy jihad and decrees that getting killed is martyrdom in the path of God. The Iranian nation presently follows the imam (may peace be upon him). The dear brothers, scholars, sources of emulation and jurists should refer to the imam's decrees in connection with the chapter on defense in Tahrir ol-Vasileh and they shall find out that conditions stated by the imam are precisely congruent with those of the present time.

In conclusion, he said: We all should cry out the slogan of "death to America" all over Iran and the Islamic world. [deputies chant "death to America"]

Ratifications

According to reports by the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT, in yesterday morning session of the Majles, study of the details of the 1370 National Budget Bill was continued. After review of suggestions offered by deputies concerning Note 6, a number of these suggestions were approved.

Note 6-A: It shall be authorized that: 1. The sum of 55 billion rials from the fixed investment allocations indicated in row 503002 (the Unforeseen Reconstruction Expenses) of Part IV of this law—for implementation of necessary reconstruction plans and reconstruction activities in deprived counties and villages located in eligible sectors (based on the report of the Plan and Budget Organization concerning the deprived regions)—shall be allocated for specific projects based on the recommendation of responsible ministers, confirmation of the Plan and Budget Organization and approval of the Council of Ministers. This sum may be utilized upon exchange of a protocol with the Plan and Budget Organization.

At least 70 percent of allocations in this paragraph must be used in rural and tribal regions.

2. The sum of 15 billion rials from the fixed investment allocations indicated in row 503002 (Unforeseen Reconstruction Expenses) of Part IV of this law shall be allocated for required reconstruction activities in deprived counties and villages located in non-deprived counties. This sum shall be allocated for use on specific projects in accordance with the guideline which shall be

drawn up and approved by the Council of Ministers within one month after ratification of this law.

3. The sum of 20 billion rials from the allocations in Paragraph 1 of this note shall be allocated for miscellaneous unforeseen but necessary reconstruction expenses of provinces and reconstruction projects of rural and tribal regions. This sum shall be distributed among provinces of the country per the recommendation of the Ministry of Interior and upon approval of the Plan and Budget Organization on as needed basis. The share of each province shall be allocated for use on specific projects per the recommendation of the governor general or the executive branch and upon approval of provincial planning committee of each province.

4. Creation of any obligation for latter years and also initiation of projects which require allocation in excess of 100 million rials from the allocations in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this note shall be prohibited.

5. The sum of 120 billion rials the remainder of the allocations in row 503002 of Part IV of this law shall be allocated for the purpose of reconstruction in various locales where damages as a result of unexpected events such as flood, earthquake, drought and fire have occurred and also in instances deemed necessary for the prevention of the aforementioned calamities.

Such allocation shall be divided among the damaged provinces per the recommendation of the Ministry of Interior, approval of the Plan and Budget Organization and ratification by the Council of Ministers.

Based on the recommendation of the provincial planning committee, the Ministry of Interior can, as needed, act upon securing the difference in interest and fees for loans granted by banks to owners of residential, commercial and agricultural units in the aforementioned regions from the allocations indicated in this paragraph.

The sum of 90 billion rials from the allocations in this paragraph shall be used explicitly for reconstruction of the earthquake stricken regions in provinces of Gilan and Zanjan. Fifty percent of this sum shall be allocated by the planning committees of these provinces for damaged areas.

Once every four months the Plan and Budget Organization and the Ministry of Interior are obligated to present the report of activities subject of this note to the public expenditure tribunal committee, the Plan and Budget Committee, councils committee and national internal affairs committee of the Majles. Also, once every four months governor generals are obligated to notify the Majles of the activities carried out by using the allocations which have been put at the disposal of their provinces for implementation of this note.

Also in yesterday morning's session of the Majles the Bill of Maritime Regions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman was presented to the Majles by the government.

According to the report of the RESALAT parliamentary correspondent from yesterday afternoon's session of the Majles, also during this session study of details of the 1370 national budget bill was continued and a number of suggestions made by deputies concerning Notes 7 and 8 were approved.

Note 7-A. The Foundation for the Affairs of Refugees of the Imposed War is obligated to sell all unused residential and commercial units (built or purchased), land, manufacturing plants, machinery and tools under its authority and deposit the sums gained from such sales to the national treasury. These sums shall be accounted as general revenue in row 390600 of Part III of this law. Refugees of the imposed war shall have priority for the purchase of such facilities and.

B. The allocation in row 105101 of Part IV of this law, equivalent of 100 percent of the earned income in Paragraph A of this note, shall be put at the disposal of the aforementioned foundation to be used for realization of reconstruction goals. This sum shall be allocated for returning and settlement of refugees of the imposed war in areas damaged during the war.

C. Sale of units mentioned in Paragraph A—if located in rural and agricultural areas—to villagers and farmers in the same region shall be based upon expert appraisal. In case there are no need for the said properties by the said individuals or if the location of such properties are in other regions, sale of the said properties shall be conducted by bids.

D. The executive guidelines of this note shall be upon recommendation of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the approval of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Plan and Budget Organization and shall be approved by the Council of Ministers.

Note 8 - The Ministry of Education and Training is authorized to allocate budget for distribution and payment of specific expenses marked for annual expenses of educational units under its jurisdiction—for the year 1370—in the Capitals and provinces. This is based on the Law of "Annual Expenses of Educational Units Attached to the Ministry of Education and Training" ratified on 11 January 1981.

Inclusion of personnel-related expenses in the annual expenses of the said units shall not be authorized.

Each year, the Ministry of Education and Training is obligated to purchase and store the paper required for use for the following year and the Central Bank is responsible to allocate and put at the disposal of Educational Research and Planning Organization the required amount of foreign exchange for the purchase of paper. (The annual use of paper is approximately 50,000 tons.)

The sum of 25 billion rials from the interest-free resources of the banking system with lowest possible banking fees shall be put at the disposal of the Ministry

of Education and Training for strengthening the Consumers and Educators' Cooperative of the said ministry.

Pakistan

Bhutto Agrees To End PDA Parliament Boycott

BK0204162291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] After talks today in Islamabad with an Islami Jamhoori Ittehad team in Parliament House, the Pakistan Democratic Alliance [PDA] has agreed in principle to end its boycott of the National Assembly. Chaudhury Nisar Ali, the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, told newsmen that after the detailed discussions an agreement was reached on the PDA's three-point demand. It was fully agreed to constitute a six-member committee which will investigate the PDA's allegations. He added that the modalities to be worked out in this connection will be announced within four days. At the next meeting, scheduled for 7 April, the draft agreement will be finalized.

Opposition leader Ms. Benazir Bhutto told newsmen that she has agreed in principle to end the boycott and a framework will be worked out during this time.

Government Appeals for Aid for Afghan Refugees

BK0304042491 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Pakistan has appealed for international aid to help care for 33 lakh Afghan refugees. The appeal was made by Federal Minister for planning and development Hamid Nasir Chatha while addressing the 47th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific [ESCAP] in Seoul. He also stressed the need for improving the world economy and providing maximum resources for developing countries. Stating Pakistan's industrial policy, the federal minister said many concessions have been given to the enterpreneur to boost industry. One important aspect of the policy is the relaxation of rules as well as the handing over of industries to the private sector.

Editorial on Dissolution of Kashmir Assembly

BK0204144591 Karachi DAWN in English 2 Apr 91 p 11

[Editorial: "AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] Assembly Dissolution"]

[Text] It is doubtful if the dissolution of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, to be followed by elections in July, will finally lead to political stability in that state. The dissolution, on the advice of Prime Minister Rathore, may end the uncertainty surrounding the assembly from the day it came into being last year. But it would be rather wishful to expect that the next assembly and government will necessarily be free from the malaise that finally led to Mr Rathore's action on Sunday. Unless the elections give totally unexpected results and lead to a vastly different alignment of political forces, the next assembly is likely to retain some of the seeds of the present conflict, given the quality of leadership and the nature of the issues involved. The issue basically is the deep-seated antipathy between Mr Rathore's PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and President Sardar Qayyum's Muslim Conference. Essentially, it is an extension of the polarisation in Pakistan between ruling IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] and the opposition PPP. In the aftermath of the Aug 6 action [The president dissolved the National Assembly and provincial assemblies] in Pakistan, many IJI supporters, as indeed those of Sardar Qayyum, must have looked at a PPP-led government in Azad Kashmir as an anomaly, which had no business to be there once the "parent party" in Pakistan had been bundled out of power. For his part, Mr Rathore was equally determined to hang on to power, because he felt he enjoyed the House's confidence, a claim that was vindicated by three failed attempts at moving a no-trust motion against him.

However, what was most unfortunate about Azad Kashmir politics was the Pakistan-style no-holds-barred tussle between the Head of State and the Head of Government. Both relied on constitutional devices to frustrate each other's moves, and Sardar Qayyum, especially, made no secret of the fact that he wanted Islamabad to act on his behalf. The constituional row in January over the appointment of three additional Judges to the High Court was perhaps the most serious of a series of clashes between the President and the Prime Minister. In fact, the prolonged tussle between the two had begun to affect the working of the bureaucracy, which was left with no choice but to side with one or the other or remain selectively immobile. Recently, there were reports that Mr Rathore had improved his relationship with Islamabad and that he was in a better position to handle the situation. However, this did not sound convincing. At a recent Press conference in Karachi he admitted that he was under pressure from Islamabad to dissolve the assembly but that he had refused to succumb to it because 32 of the 48 members supported him. On Sunday, he sprang a surprise by reversing his stand and advising the dissolution of the assembly—explaining that he did not wish to tax the patience and loyalty of his coalition partners, who were open to all sorts of temptations and pressures to change sides.

Whatever the motive, now that the assembly stands dissolved and new elections are to be held, both the PPP and Sardar Qayyum's camp would do well to try to look to the future with a little more of realism and political maturity. It is, of course, too early to predict the outcome of the July polls. But even if there is a major upset, the assembly will still represent, by and large, the same political stuff, though perhaps with altered parliamentary strengths. The issue again will be the same as before: making the assembly and the political government work. That task would be made a great deal harder than it was

in the recent past if one or the other side tried to manipulate the elections. Were this to happen, Azad Kashmir could be in for a long period of political turmoil and instability. The federal government in Islamabad and all the four provinces are already controlled by the IJI or IJI-led coalitions, and it might be tempting for some political charlatans or adventurers to counsel a bit of wirepulling to have a similar set-up in Azad Kashmir. Any such move would be most ill-advised. A contrived majority may hold for a while and even give the appearance of stability, but as time passes, it is bound to prove an embarrassment and a liability. Let the elections be fair and free. Mr Rathore, will, of course, continue to act as caretaker Prime Minister till his successor is sworn in. But he and his administration must on no account misuse their position to tamper with the sanctity of the electoral process or allow any other party or group to resort to unethical or coercive methods during the elections. The dissolution of the assembly is after all a constituionally valid step and should serve to strengthen democracy, provided what follows next is equally democratic and free from any taint of manipulation or charges of electoral fraud.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Reportedly Massacre Sinhala Fishermen

BK0304100191 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0817 GMT 3 Apr 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were reported to have carried out a brutal massacre of Sinhala fishermen in the early hours of this morning across the Koddiyar Bay, south of the eastern port city of Trincomalee.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that 40-50 fishermen had put out of sea from Sampur fishing village last evening. They cast lines and settled down to a night's fishing, when boatloads of terrorists had suddenly emerged from the darkness and rounded them up at gunpoint. They had been taken ashore, to a lonely beach, lined up and shot. Some fishermen had managed to escape.

First reports stated that two vallams (country boats) had been burnt by the LTTE. The bodies of five fishermen had been found.

The police and the security forces are guarding Tamil villages in the vicinity to prevent a backlash due to the LTTE massacre, official sources said.

Army Commander Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe who visited the battle zone and the northern division headquarters at Anuradhaura Tuesday [2 April], told LANKAPUVATH that ongoing operations by the security forces to clear the Mannar and Vavuniya Districts of the LTTE was going according to plan.

He said government troops had driven out the terrorists from a number of areas and earmarked targets were destroyed. He said in one operation, the security forces were marching from Thandikulam, three miles north of Vavuniya town, to Mannar.

Official sources said a number of LTTE cadres travelling in two vehicles on the Mannar-Vavuniya Road were killed when the two targets were attacked by Sri Lankan Air Force aircraft.

One soldier was killed in this operation at Netpulukulam. Two soldiers were killed in an encounter with terrorists at Nanadan in Mannar. The LTTE suffered many casualties, but their number is not known, the sources said.

The curfews in the Mannar and Vavuniya Districts continue, except in Mannar island and Vavuniya town. A curfew is also in force in the Kilinochchi District.

One terrorist was killed at Palali, Jaffna, and another at Aruwanvali south of Batticaloa.

The body of an eighth LTTE cadre was found at Karudujanaru in Batticaloa where earlier seven terrorists were killed when ambushed by government troops.